



## **Animal Health Department Externship Program**

The Animal Health department is responsible for the care and welfare of all the animals at the Vancouver Aquarium, Marine Mammal Rescue (MMR) Centre and other offsite facilities. The Vancouver Aquarium is a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, education, research, and direct action.

The Animal Health department provides three (3) unpaid externship opportunities for final year Animal health technologist and Veterinary technician students. Each externship placement is 2-3 weeks in length, Monday to Friday. Hours may include evenings, weekends and holidays. Students are responsible for finding their own accommodation and transportation while in Vancouver. Information on housing, transportation, and directions can be found on the Vancouver Aquarium website. Placement selection will be based on student qualifications, organizational needs, and availability.

### **Summary of Position**

Students will have the opportunity to spend 2-3 weeks with the Veterinary staff working with the Vancouver Aquarium's over 6,000 species of animals, which include marine mammals, fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. Students will observe and assist the technicians and veterinarian in all aspects of veterinary care, including exams, treatments and routine laboratory procedures and learn medical/husbandry techniques unique to species at the aquarium. Students will learn about threats facing these species in the wild, and challenges of caring for animals from varying environments. The externship is an unpaid placement and hands on experience may be limited.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Students may be involved in the following:

- Set up for treatment and surgical procedures
- Laboratory procedures, including sample collection, processing and paperwork for shipment to outside laboratories
- Maintenance and cleaning of hospital areas, equipment and supplies
- Assist with necropsies, including sample collection, storage, and record keeping
- Observe and participate in ongoing research projects
- Research animal anatomy, physiology, medical techniques, common diseases, challenges with keeping and treating these species, status in the wild
- Assist the veterinarian and technicians in surgical and medical cases as needed
- Accompany veterinary staff on rounds

- Shadow staff from Marine mammal, BC waters and Tropical waters departments and participate in their daily food preparation/husbandry and training
- Attend departmental meetings with veterinary staff
- Case study or research project at discretion of veterinary staff
- Assist staff at Marine Mammal Rescue centre (seasonal)

### **Qualifications**

Students must meet the following requirements for application:

- Final year of study in veterinary technology from an accredited institution
- Interest in career in aquatic and exotic animal medicine
- Extremely self motivated with a desire for continuous learning
- Computer proficiency and excellent communication skills
- Ability to work well both independently and in a team setting
- Ability to lift 20 kg, stand for long periods of time

### **Applications**

To apply please send a resume, letter of interest stating your education, relevant experience and career objectives, availability for externship and 2 letters of recommendation to:

[vettech@vanaqua.org](mailto:vettech@vanaqua.org)

### **OR**

Animal Health Department  
Vancouver Aquarium  
PO Box 3232  
Vancouver, B.C V6B 3X8  
**Fax:** 604-659-3469

*The Vancouver Aquarium encourages environmentally sustainable practices. Please consider the environment before printing this document and when submitting your application.*

**Deadline For applications: February 28 of year requested**