



Specialty Internship: Veterinary Technician

EXTERNSHIPS

Through partnerships with Joliet Junior College and Fox Community College, **currently enrolled** veterinary technician students who are interested in working within the zoo and aquatics field are invited to apply for spring term placement in the zoo's veterinary hospital. Students must submit an application during either the winter application window (August 1 - October 1) OR the summer application window (November 1 - February 1) and include a cover letter, resume, transcript, and two letters of recommendation.

Regardless of submission date, all applications will be reviewed by the hiring manager after February 1.

INTERNSHIPS

Students who have **completed** a veterinary technician certificate from any accredited institution who are interested in working within the zoo and aquatics field are invited to apply for fall term internship placement in the zoo's veterinary hospital. Applications for Vet Tech internships are accepted during the fall application window (May 1 - July 1) for fall term placement (September - December).

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assists the Animal Health & Welfare department in creating innovations and excellence in conservation leadership and animal welfare.
- Provide routine and emergency care for animals, including feeding, bathing, exercising, and restraining animals during examinations and procedures.
- Assisting with medical procedures such as blood draws, vaccinations, wound care, and administering medications; Preparing animals for surgery, assisting during surgical procedures, and monitoring animals during recovery.
- Collecting and processing laboratory samples, performing basic lab tests, and recording results.
- Maintaining accurate and detailed records of animal health, treatment plans, and medications administered.
- Other related duties as assigned.

AT A GLANCE

PAY RATE: Unpaid

HOURS/WEEK: Part-Time or Full Time (min. 24 hours/week)

COMMITMENT: 8-12 weeks

LOCATION: Onsite at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

WORK GROUP: Animal Health & Welfare

PREREQUISITE: Enrollment in accredited Vet Tech program

COLLEGE CREDIT: Available upon request



Position Details: Veterinary Technician

Requirements

- Currently enrolled in an accredited Veterinary Technician program.
- Student must represent Brookfield Zoo Chicago in a professional manner at all times.
- Veterinary technicians are frequently subjected to potential hazards that include direct contact with or close proximity to live animals. Student must possess knowledge of occupational hazards and safe work practices around such hazards.
- These positions are physically demanding, and student may be subjected to a variety of physical demands and environmental factors and exposures.
- Intern must be comfortable in a dynamic, mission- and value-driven organization with an evolving culture.
- Experience and/or ability to work and interact effectively with a diverse, multicultural audience.
- English fluency (reading, writing, speaking) and strong interpersonal skills required; multilingual ability, Spanish, a plus.
- All interns are required to complete either a final project or daily journal as part of their experience.

All interns, regardless of proximity to animals, must have an up to date TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) vaccination (booster within the last 10 years) and test negative for TB (Tuberculosis) within the last 12 months.

Scheduling Expectations

Brookfield Zoo Chicago operates 365 days a year. Schedules vary by position, but may include weekends, holidays, early mornings, and evenings. Successful interns exemplify a positive attitude, strong work ethic, an eagerness to learn, and an ability to work effectively both in a team and independently. Given the competitive landscape of professional animal care, candidates should be mindful of the following scheduling requirements:

- Must be willing to commit to at least 24 hours per week for 8-12 weeks in a term, not to exceed 480 total hours. Any anticipated scheduling conflicts should be disclosed during the interview process.

Physical Requirements

Vet Tech positions are physically demanding, and interns may be subjected to a variety of physical demands and environmental factors and exposures. Candidates must have the ability to perform essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations, such as:

- Ability to stand, walk, kneel, or squat for extended periods.
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds regularly
- Comfort working outdoors in varying and extreme weather conditions, including inclement weather, extreme heat, and cold temperatures.