

UF SMP Approved Externship Hosts

Qualified for Professional Certificate in Shelter Medicine

These sites have been approved by the [Shelter Medicine Program](#) and meet the qualifications for a “Shelter Medicine” and/or “Spay-Neuter” externship for students pursuing the Professional Certificate in Shelter Medicine. This list is routinely updated based on a site’s capacity to host and mentor students, as well as student feedback.

Don’t see a shelter that you’d like to visit on our list? Email Dr. Cynda Crawford (crawfordc@ufl.edu) for more information on the approval process for a new externship site.

For questions or concerns regarding externships, please reach out to Dana, Danamarie0737@ufl.edu

Spay/Neuter Only	Shelter Medicine Only	Spay/Neuter or Shelter Medicine*
ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance (Asheville)	Austin Humane Society	Citrus County Animal Services
First Coast No More Homeless Pets	Best Friends Animal Society	Jacksonville Humane Society
Harmony Vet Care	Cat Adoption Team	Pasco County Animal Services
Operation Catnip	Humane Society of Boulder Valley	Tallahassee Animal Services
Humane Society of Broward County	Humane Society of North Central Florida	
	Orange County Animal Services	
	Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League	
	Providence Animal Center	
	Richmond SPCA	

*This indicates sites approved for both types of externships (1. “Spay/Neuter” or 2. “Shelter Medicine”). However students must schedule two *separate* rotations as each has a unique list of learning activities and must be supervised by a different veterinarian.

ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance

Externship Overview:

The ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance, formerly known as Humane Alliance, offers senior veterinary students an exciting off-campus experience that introduces them to the concentration of high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter. The externship is a two-week (40 hours/week) unpaid opportunity. Coursework includes intensive hands-on medical and surgical experience. This encompasses every aspect of a patient's experience with us including disease control, patient assessment and selection, behavior, patient preparation, mechanics of sterile surgical technique, record keeping, anesthetic and pain management protocol, and patient monitoring and support. Externs will experience surgical instruction and practice seven out of the program's ten days. The exact curriculum is determined by patient/case availability and each student's ability. Most students perform approximately 15 surgeries over the two-week period.

We spay/neuter an average of 23,000 animals per year at our facility, and train around 1,000 spay/neuter professionals a year (including veterinary students). We provide service to healthy canines and felines that are good surgical candidates. Our 13,000 sq. ft. facility has six surgery suites and can accommodate 250 patients at one time.

Students must be at least a rising third year to submit an application, and must be a 4th year student at the time of attendance. Otherwise, the NC Veterinary Medical Board will not issue a temporary permit (required to do surgery at our facility).

Number of Veterinarians: 15 FT, 0 PT

Contact Information:

25 Heritage Drive
Asheville, NC 28806

Phone: (828) 252-2079

Email: N/A

[Visit Website](#) for further information and application instructions.

Austin Humane Society

Externship Overview:

The Austin Humane Society, formed in 1952, is Austin's longest standing animal shelter. AHS is a private, nonprofit limited admission shelter serving over 5,000 dogs and cats each year through the adoption program. In addition to the adoption program, AHS also runs a high quality, high volume spay and neuter clinic for feral cats (approximately 6,000/year). The AHS staff averages 140 surgeries per week between shelter surgeries and feral cat surgeries, and we house around 200 animals in the shelter daily and an additional 200-300 in foster care. We have 40 staff members (two full-time veterinarians, eight clinic staff) and over 700 active volunteers.

AHS offers a 2 week long unpaid externship. The externship schedule varies and will be set when scheduled. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about shelter medicine including common diseases, concepts of population management, the ASV standards of care, preventative care protocols, risk factors for relinquishment, environmental enrichment, principles of infection control, skills in animal handling and examination, disaster response, and cruelty/abuse evaluation. Students will learn specialized S/N techniques such as the ovarian pedicle tie, flank spays, and Miller's knot. Students will be allowed to perform spays/neuters on shelter animals according to student skill level. We require that you have completed your General Surgery rotation in order to get the most out of your surgical experiences with us. The surgery schedule at AHS is typically high volume, so students will be allowed to perform as many surgeries as possible as long as the pace of the clinic is adequate to finish all surgeries on time. The externship is more heavily weighted on shelter medicine than surgery, so students interested primarily in performing a large volume of surgeries should pursue other opportunities.

Number of Veterinarians: 2 FT, 0 PT

Contact Information:

124 W Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78752

Phone: (512) 646-7387

Email: Katie Broadus, COO (kluke@austinhumanesociety.org)

[Visit Website](#)

Best Friends Animal Society

Externship Overview:

Over 5,000 animals are seen at the clinic each year. The practice description includes shelter/sanctuary, private (employee animals), and emergency. The percentages of species seen include the following: 35% small animal, 30% feline, 10% avian, 10% exotic, 15% equine. The facility includes a small and large animal hospital; however it does not operate as a full large animal hospital. The clinic specialties available include the following: surgery, nutrition, cardiology, ophthalmology, dermatology, and epidemiology. Laboratory and diagnostic facilities include the following: hematology, serum biochemistry, blood gas analyzer, microscope and electrocardiography. Imaging facilities include the following: radiography (conventional and digital) and ultrasonography.

Veterinary student externs receive practical instruction 5 days per week. The extern will be exposed to the following education opportunities: general practice of clinical medicine and surgery, discussions of therapeutic decisions, preventive medicine programs, and a unique education experience of being at a Sanctuary with 1,700 animals. Rounds and cases will be discussed and students will perform the following task with supervision: history taking, assist w/ surgical procedures, physical examinations, rounds, client communication, lab interpretation, imaging interpretation, and in-office procedures. Under the direct supervision of the Best Friends Veterinarian, the veterinary student will be required to participate in daily medical rounds. During these rounds, the student may be asked to give diagnosis and treatment recommendations, interpretation of diagnostic testing, or opinions on medical treatments currently being given. Surgical experience will be ascertained and the student may perform routine spay/neuter surgeries on sanctuary animals. The Sanctuary Veterinarian may assign other surgical procedures if the surgical expertise of the student warrants. The student will stand in on medical appointments of public or sanctuary animals as they arise. Routine medical care of hospitalized animals, assisting in diagnostic testing and interpreting lab analysis and radiographs will be required as well. In addition as time permits and need arises, the student may be assigned a special project involving sanctuary animals.

Number of Veterinarians: 5 FT, 0 PT

Contact Information:

5001 Angel Canyon Road
Kanab, UT 84741

Phone: (435) 644-2001

Email: Brittany Bingeman, Intern Coordinator (internships@bestfriends.org)

Read more and download application [here](#).

[Visit Website](#)

Cat Adoption Team

Externship Overview:

Cat Adoption Team has a full service feline only hospital. Of the approximately 3,000 cats in our care each year we provide treatment for 20-30 at any one time. We perform approximately 2,500 spay and neuter surgeries for cats in our care including owned cats in the community whose owners receive the service at a discounted rate.

The externship will be focused on high volume/high quality spay/neuter, dentistry, and shelter medicine best practices.

Number of Veterinarians: 1 FT, 2 PT

Contact Information:

14175 SW Galbreath Dr.
Sherwood, Oregon 97140

Phone: (503) 925-8903

Email: Dr. Dianne Brown (dianneb@catadoptionteam.org) with up-to-date CV.

[Visit Website](#)

Charleston Animal Society

Externship Overview:

The Charleston Animal Society is pleased to offer 1-4 week externships to veterinary students entering their clinical year. Our organization is one of the oldest humane organizations in the south, sheltering hundreds of thousands of animals since our founding in 1874. Originally named the John Ancrum SPCA, The Charleston Humane Society is a private, nonprofit shelter with a county contract. We operate an open-admissions shelter,

receiving any and all animals from Charleston County. Our average intake is between 8-9,000 animals per year that is primarily cats and dogs, but includes rabbits, rodents, reptiles, birds, and some farm animals, as well. In addition to sheltering, we operate a high-volume spay/neuter clinic six days a week, performing spays and neuters on dogs, cats and rabbits. We have about 50 employees, including 4 full time veterinarians and 1 part time veterinarian that perform 200-300 surgeries per week. Your externship will include shelter medicine, high-volume spay/neuter training, and exposure to animal behavior analysis and animal control methods.

If you require lodging in Charleston, it may be available with a staff member for a small weekly fee.

Number of Veterinarians: 4 FT, 1 PT

Contact Information:

2455 Remount Road
North Charleston, SC 29406

Phone: (843) 747-4849

Email: Dr. Lucy Fuller (lfuller@charlestonanimalsociety.org)

[Visit Website](#)

Student Quotes:

"I had an overwhelming positive externship experience at Charleston Animal Society. I was allowed to be hands-on from day one providing treatments and performing surgeries on the shelter animals as well as conducting physical exams and diagnostics. I was welcomed into the CAS team and both the veterinarians and technicians made me feel valued. I was pushed out of my comfort zone and further developed a number of key skills in shelter medicine. I feel much more confident in my surgical skills and my ability to diagnose and treatment common conditions and diseases seen in the shelter. I would recommend reviewing the common infectious diseases seen in shelter animals (URI in felines, Kennel Cough in canines) and how to diagnose and treat these diseases. Also, I would recommend reviewing the common surgical procedures performed in a shelter including spay/neuter techniques and amputation surgeries. Be prepared for long days and to work hard when you are at the shelter - especially during Kitten Season!" - Amy, Class of 2020

Citrus County Animal Services

Externship Overview:

Citrus County Animal Services is in a time of significant transition as we aim to provide medical, surgical, and behavioral care for dogs, cats, and occasional farm animals in our care. Due to recent significant efforts to decrease shelter animal length of stay, build up our TNVR program, and adopt managed admission policies, we have been able to decrease our daily sheltered animal population from between 200-250 animals to 90-125. We aim to continue these programs and expand our foster program significantly this year. These numbers may also vary due to legal cases. Externship objectives will include providing physical exam and treatment plans for sheltered animals, assisting and providing spay/neuter services, creation of functional SOPs, providing medical care for fostered animals with emphasis on low stress handling, participating in volunteer run play groups, and daily medical and population rounds.

Citrus is only about an hour drive from Gainesville which makes it an attractive opportunity to UF students as they can commute from home if they choose.

Number of Veterinarians: 1 FT, 0 PT

Contact Information:

4030 S Airport Rd.
Inverness, FL 34450

Phone: (352) 476-8400

Email: Dr. Meaghan Mielo (Meaghan.Mielo@citrusbocc.com)

[Visit Website](#)

First Coast No More Homeless Pets

Externship Overview:

The FCNMHP externship opportunity focuses mostly on HQHVSN with a small introduction/exposure to Incremental/Practical medical care (Access to Veterinary Care).

In the past year alone, FCNMHP performed 23,070 S/N surgeries, treated 55,378 clients, supported our neighbors in need with over \$257,000 in charitable care grants. Students will have heavy exposure to hands-on spay/neuter surgery for both dogs and cats along with experience in surgical prep, per surgical exams, anesthesia monitoring, infectious disease management, community cat management and client communication when needed. They will see and participate in the workflow of a 50 to 100 animal surgical day with occasional exposure to soft tissue surgery procedures like tail amputations, enucleations and mass removals. and so much more!

A typical surgical day for a senior staff DVM is 40-50 surgeries a day, with externs having as much caseload as their experience and comfort level allow. Senior DVMs will be assigned to students so that they can provide hands-on teaching in between a reduced caseload to allow for a more in-depth experience. The HGHVSN facility is located at Norwood Ave and the allotment of time with exposure to Access to Veterinary care is located at our full service veterinary hospital on Cassat Ave. Responsibilities of the extern will include all of the tasks above in line with estimated time goals listed in the attached application.

Number of Veterinarians: 2-3 FT, 0 PT

Number of staff: 5-9

Prerequisite information:

Candidates must be third or fourth-year veterinary students in good academic standing at an AVMA accredited school of Veterinary Medicine. Priority is given to Shelter medicine club students and those interested in HGHVSN and Access to Veterinary Care (AVC).

Contact Information:

Dr. Yvonne Kline
6817 Norwood Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32208

Phone: (904) 425-0005

Email: yklien@fcnmhp.org

[Visit Website](#)

Harmony Vet Care

Externship Overview:

Harmony Vet Care is a high volume, non-profit, full service veterinary care. We have a location in Tampa and Brandon. We employ 9 full-time veterinarians and nearly 50 highly skilled staff. The clinic is divided into 3 services: surgery, sick exams and healthy pet services.

Externs at Harmony Vet Care will receive a schedule that divides their time among these three services, and will receive mentorship from talented and passionate veterinarians.

Harmony sees an incredible variety of cases such as: healthy spay/neuter/vaccines where you can hijjme your physical exam skills as well as spay/neuter techniques, minor illness and injuries like skin and ear infections or wound care, more intense hospitalization such as cats with urinary obstruction, and ever manor of soft tissue surgery such as enucleations, cystotomies, mass removals, leg amputations, foreign bodies, perineal urethrostomies and splenectomies just to name a few.

We commonly treat cats, dogs, mini-pigs, rabbits, rats and guinea pigs.

In order to make the most of this experience, externs are expected and encouraged to jump in. Take cases, recommend diagnostics, interpret results, recommend treatments, educate owners, and participate in surgeries.

Our staff is highly trained and eager to teach. We have digital radiography, in-house bloodwork, urinalysis, and fecalizers, cold laser, intra-op radiography, dental radiography, and ultrasound.

Number of Veterinarians: 9 FT, 0 PT

Prerequisites:

An enthusiastic attitude, willingness to work hard and learn, and ability to work as part of a team. Completion of soft tissue surgery, anesthesia, shelter medicine, dentistry, and internal medicine would be helpful but are not required.

Contact Information:

5420 Webb Rd, Suite C2
Tampa, FL 33615

Phone: (813) 390-1623

Email: Dr. Stephanie Sabshin (managment@harmonyvetcare.org)
[Visit Website](#)

Humane Society of Boulder Valley

Externship Overview:

We offer 2 to 4 week Shelter Medicine Externships to senior (fourth year) veterinary students. In the shelter, students will focus on processes around the transfer, impoundment and adoption of companion animals. Students have the opportunity to hone physical exam skills and learn about disease control, behavior evaluation, and behavior modification in the shelter environment. In the veterinary clinic, students assist our veterinary team in a wide variety of skill appropriate procedures, including medical diagnostics, treatments, and supervised sterilization for shelter and foster animals. Week 1 will be a shelter rotation involving daily duties that include administering morning medications to shelter animals and assisting veterinary technicians with daily monitoring reports, observing behavior assessments with the shelter's Behavior and Health team, and accompanying the shelter veterinarian on medical rounds. Students will also observe intake and adoptions to gain insight into the daily workings of the shelter, and shadow Training and Behavior staff during behavior modification and training sessions. Week 2 will be a clinic rotation involving daily duties that include assisting veterinary technicians in surgery cases, caring for hospitalized patients, including physical exams (SOAP format medical records into computer), administering medications, and updating veterinarians on morning rounds. The veterinary clinic is a high pace environment and routine breaks are not scheduled. Staff typically brings their own lunches, but there are restaurants nearby to visit for lunch.

Realizing that nearly everyday in shelter medicine can be stressful, we encourage students to consider taking a shelter animal out for a hike along the trails adjacent to the shelter, or to enjoy some quiet moments with one of them!

Students are encouraged to apply early, as dates fill up quickly and we cannot guarantee date availability until student application process is confirmed. Student blocks are NOT available in the month of June.

We will make every effort to connect out-of-state students with host families during their externship.

Number of Veterinarians: 4 FT, 3 PT

Contact Information:

2323 55th Street
Boulder, CO 80301

Phone: (303) 442-4030

Email: Kat Burns, Director of Operations (kat.burns@boulderhumane.org) with up-to-date CV and Letter of Recommendation from a faculty member.

[Visit Website](#)

Student Quotes:

“Overall, my experience at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley was fantastic. From the work at the shelter, to the beautiful location and the generosity of my host family, I would personally strongly recommend this experience for any veterinary student interested in shelter medicine.” - Diane, Class of 2020

Humane Society of Broward County

Externship Overview:

The Humane Society of Broward County is a 33,000 square foot, completely air-conditioned, non-profit, open admission animal shelter, providing aid, responsible adoptions to animals entrusted to our care, and educates the community about respect and kindness to all animals. We intake nearly 6,000 animals per year with a 91% live release rate of dogs and 94% live release rate of cats. We have implemented many programs to help promote surrender prevention and responsible care to all animals.

The Humane Society of Broward County includes a shelter for companion animals, veterinary clinic for shelter animals and limited outpatient services, behavior training enrichment, and humane education department. Last year we performed over 21,000 surgeries for adopted and public animals. Our facility has a surgical suite which operates 7 days a week. We have 3 full-time staff veterinarians and a support team of relief veterinarians and medical staff.

The Veterinary extern will be involved in both shelter medicine and operational aspects: in-house and public high volume/high quality spay and neuter, assessment and care of in-house animals, limited outpatient services, population management, infectious disease monitoring and control, and preventative medicine. The objective is to advance the extern's

knowledge and educational foundation in shelter medicine and operations, surgical practices, and in facilitating animal welfare and education through mentorship.

We will make every effort to connect out-of-state students with host families during their externship.

Number of Veterinarians: 3 FT

Contact Information:

Humane Society of Broward County
2070 Griffin Rd
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Phone: (954) 266-6828

Email: Dr. Alyssa Dayton at adayton@hsbroward.com

[Visit Website](#)

Humane Society of North Central Florida

Externship Overview:

The Humane Society of North Central Florida is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending unnecessary euthanasia in North Central Florida via adoptions, shelter diversion, sterilizations, and education, as well as collaboration of animal welfare partnerships in our region. We are a limited intake facility that took in over 2900 animals this year, most of which were dogs and cats. We provide services for publicly owned animals as well as shelter animals with our spay/neuter and Wellness clinics. We performed nearly 4800 surgeries this year and over 5000 clinic appointments. Student externs will be involved in each of these aspects.

Students will spend three days a week in shelter medicine and management and two days a week in surgery. Experiences that will be gained while in shelter medicine include, but are not limited to, intake/update exams, sick exams, case management, heartworm treatments, ringworm management, technical skills, rounds, review of protocols, foster education, and Wellness Clinic activities. Experiences that will be gained in surgery include, but are not limited to, sterilizations, special procedures (amputations, enucleations, mass removals, etc.), surgical prep, post op patient care, protocol review, recheck exams, cleaning, wrapping of packs, and other duties associated with surgical preparation and cleanup. Students are

expected to be proactive in their experience at HSNCF. It is a hands-on, interactive externship where students are encouraged to learn various aspects of sheltering from medical staff as well as veterinarians. Trips to the local municipal shelter may occur. In the event of spare time, the student may be asked to present a subject of interest to the staff during a low key "lunch n learn" event. Students need to be available five days a week for regular shelter activities. Weekend activities occur often in which the student is welcome to participate, but it is not required.

Number of Veterinarians: 2 FT, 1 PT

Contact Information:

4205 NW 6th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609

Email: Dr. Emma Johnson (drjohnson@humanesocietyncfl.org)
[Visit Website](#)

Jacksonville Humane Society

Externship Overview:

We perform 25-70 spay neuter surgeries each day, depending on the time of year. We only see dogs and cats. Externs participate in pre-surgery physical exams with staff veterinarians. Externs then perform surgery with the staff veterinarians. Our veterinarians have hosted many externs for UF and also for Maddie's over the last year.

Externs will work in the community hospital with shelter pets. Both our hospital and shelter are new, and we perform high quality, high volume services. We hope to increase their surgical skills while they are with us. We also hope to expose them to our shelter medicine program. Following surgery each day, they would attend rounds with a staff veterinarian in the shelter. These rounds include exams, addressing medical issues, making care plans, and assisting the shelter medical staff.

With shelter medicine and surgery, each extern's skill level is taken into consideration, and the staff veterinarians work to increase their knowledge and confidence to work as independently as they feel comfortable.

Externs would be exposed to the following programs: open adoptions, intake, pet retention, playgroups, and community medicine. On occasion, JHS also hosts other shelter employees in various training programs.

Number of Veterinarians: 3 FT

Contact Information:

8464 Beach Blvd
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Phone: (904) 493-4601

Email: (shill@jaxhumane.org)

[Visit Website](#)

Nevada Humane Society

Externship Overview:

Nevada Humane Society is a nonprofit open admission shelter that is dedicated to continuing and growing lifesaving efforts within the entire state. Their mission is "caring for pets, finding them homes, and saving lives", and to date they have saved over 100,000 animals. The shelter population is around 300-400 cats, 100-200 dogs, and 20 small animals (rabbits, guinea pigs, birds) at any time, and there are a large number of animals in foster homes, as well.

NHS facility was built in 2007. There are 4 colony rooms, 4 regularly housed adoption rooms, and one large show case area for cats, along with multiple isolation and holding rooms. For dogs, there are 169 kennels, most of which are double sided with inside and outside access. The NHS clinic has an operating room with two tables, and a prep room with three tables, along with two exam rooms.

Externs can expect a well rounded shelter experience. Generally, externs spend the morning performing medicine duties (shelter animal care, public clinic appointments including wellness clinic, foster care, etc). Other mornings are spent with animal care managers and the Operations Director to understand the full sheltering experience. Afternoons are usually for shelter surgery, including spay/neuter procedures, dentistry, and other procedures like mass removals, enucleations, amputations, etc.

Student housing is provided.

Number of Veterinarians: 6 FT, 1 PT

Contact Information:

2825 Longley Lane
Reno, Nevada 89502

Phone: (775) 856-2000

Email: Dr. Katie Matzke (kmatzke@nevadahumanesociety.org)

[Visit Website](#)

Operation Catnip

Externship Overview:

Externship Description Coming Soon

Number of Veterinarians: 1 FT, 0 PT

Contact Information:

912 NE 2nd Street
Gainesville, FL 32607

Phone: (352) 380-0940

Email: Volunteer@ocgainesville.org

[Click here](#) for application information

[Visit Website](#)

Orange County Animal Services

Externship Overview:

Orange County Animal Service (OCAS) is a municipal shelter in Chapel Hill, NC with an annual intake of roughly 2,500 animals. As an open admission shelter, OCAS takes in all species but the majority of the population is dogs and cats. OCAS also oversees animal

control and protection which is responsible for overseeing cruelty cases, dangerous dogs, nuisance animals, and wildlife.

OCAS is a 26,000 sq foot facility equipped with a medical clinic, surgical suite, and isolation area. Surgeries are performed multiple times a week including high volume spay/neuter and other special procedures such as needed. Students will have the opportunity to participate in not only daily medical cases, but develop a true holistic experience of what shelter medicine entails from intake to outcome.

There will be numerous opportunities to shadow other departments - with a focus on animal control and field work. OCAS prides itself on maintaining the behavioral health of animals in our care through enrichment programs, and externs would be a key part of this program. Students are expected to complete a short presentation on a topic of their choosing and present it to shelter staff at the end of their externship. This project is intended to facilitate learning and critical thinking in an area that the student is passionate about.

OCAS is a small, but amazing group of individuals who deeply care about the animals in our care. We are constantly striving for growth to improve our programs and bridge the divide between the community and the municipal shelter. Our caseload is manageable, leaving ample time for externs to investigate their own passions and view shelter medicine & operations beyond the scope of only being a clinician.

Number of Veterinarians: 2 FT

Contact Information:

1601 Eubanks Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone: (919)942-7387

Email: Dr. Jo Jarred (jjarred@orangecountync.gov)

[Visit Website](#)

Pasco County Animal Services

Externship Overview:

Pasco County Animal Services is a limited admissions county shelter. We pride ourselves in progressive shelter medicine practices. Intake is mostly dogs and cats, however we will

receive the occasional bird, rabbit and reptile. Our newest adoption facility opened in 2010 and our original buildings continue to undergo renovation. We currently have 2 full time veterinarians on staff, 6 veterinary technicians, 1 medical assistant and a large shelter operations and field team. Externship objectives: to expose the veterinary student to all of the departments within Pasco County Animal Services including the services provided to our community. Our focus will be on providing the veterinary student with valuable hands-on experience in shelter medicine, animal sheltering and surgical experience, both sterilization techniques and various other procedures and surgeries that may present during their time with us. We will also include them in discussions re: herd health and disease recognition, management and treatment as well as behavior. Exposure to field services will also be a valuable learning experience.

Number of Veterinarians: 2 FT

Contact Information:

19640 Dog Patch Ln
Land O Lakes, FL 34638

Phone: (813) 929-1212 xt 1422

Email: Dr. Christine Glenn (cglenn@pascocountyfl.net)

[Visit Website](#)

Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League

Externship Overview:

Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League is a non-profit animal shelter in West Palm Beach, FL that has been operating consistently since 1925. We have a team of 7 veterinarians and 36 medical support staff (veterinary technicians and medical admin/CSRs). In 2021, our annual intake was 7400 (dogs and cats only) and we performed over 12,000 spay/neuter surgeries for shelter pets, owned pets, and TNVR cats. We have a 13.5 acre campus with 3 buildings including a new adoption center that opened in March of 2021.

Externs will have the opportunity to spend time in each area of the shelter to learn about our operations and will spend time with our team of veterinarians in shelter medicine, our public wellness clinic, dentistry, and surgery. If opportunities are available for planning meetings, the extern will be welcome to attend these. This externship will give a general overview of working at a well resourced, non-profit animal shelter as well as the opportunity to learn from multiple experienced shelter veterinarians.

Prerequisites/Preferences:

Third or fourth year veterinary student, shelter medicine certificate program preferred.

Insurance required:

AVMA PLIT

Number of Veterinarians: 7 FT

Contact Information:

Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League
3200 N Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Email: Dr. Alyssa Comroe (a.comroe@peggyadams.org)
[Visit Website](#)

Providence Animal Center

Externship Overview:

Students will spend time working in a variety of departments within the shelter, including intake, isolation, and surgery. We also run a low cost community clinic where students can shadow veterinarians as they care for client owned animals. Providence holds between 150-200 animals on a daily basis as well as 100 foster animals at any given time. Students will be able to see foster appointments, help diagnose and treat sick shelter animals, assess incoming transfer animals, veterinary medical rounds, and work in the surgery department which performs 25-30 surgeries daily, including s/n, mass removals, dentals and other soft tissue surgeries including exploratory laparotomies and cystotomies. There are 6 veterinarians on staff, 2 trainers and approximately 40 medical and animal care staff. Students will be able to work with medical director and managers to gain insight into the management of shelter operations, including daily staff meetings and bi-weekly manager meetings.

Number of Veterinarians: 2 FT, 4 PT

Contact Information:

555 Sandy Bank Road

Media, Pennsylvania 19064

Phone: (610) 566-1370

Email: Dr. Kimberly Boudwin, Medical Director (<mailto:kboudwin@providenceac.org>)

[Visit Website](#)

Richmond SPCA

Externship Overview:

The Richmond SPCA hosts fourth year veterinary students for two or three week blocks to allow them exposure to the field of Shelter Medicine. Richmond SPCA is a private, non-profit, no-kill shelter with an average yearly admission of approximately 4,000 dogs and cats. No two days are alike and we feel that we offer a wonderfully broad overview of the field. We have on average 300 animals in the system at any given time. The dogs and cats at the facility are afforded everything that veterinary medicine has to offer. We have relationships with local specialists including board certified surgeons, ophthalmologists, dermatologists and cardiologists that welcome our students shadowing when they see one of our patients.

Our staff of 5 veterinarians and 4 licensed technicians operates a full service veterinary hospital (renovated and opened in January 2016) that serves the low income community of Richmond and the surrounding counties. The Richmond SPCA has a full behavior staff on site, a behavior helpline, school for dogs and operates an extensive humane education department. Our adoption facility is open seven days a week and offers offsite adoptions as well. We have an enormous volunteer program with over 200 active participants.

We make every effort to expose veterinary students to all aspects of the operations here at Richmond SPCA. Many times students come to us with particular interests they would like to concentrate on but we feel that the field of shelter medicine benefits the most from teaching students at every level of the organization. The veterinary side of a shelter is intricately tied to the management and fund raising goals. Admissions directly impact adoptions and the veterinary team plays a crucial role in bringing in healthy animals, keeping them well or rehabilitating them and getting them into permanent loving homes.

Students will leave with a good understanding of how the different specialties can work together to benefit the shelter population. So on any given day a student may do physical exams, surgery, help with a critter camp, vaccinate foster care kittens, treat kennel cough or ringworm, write a blog about heartworms, attend staff training, assist the behavior team with a dog exhibiting barrier frustration, accompany the transfer team to another shelter, teach an adopter to give insulin injections to the new cat or bottle feed puppies. We sincerely strive for

the students to leave with an understanding of the challenges facing shelter medicine but also be exposed to the deep rewards and fulfillment that it affords us all.

Number of Veterinarians: 5 FT, 2 PT

Contact Information:

2519 Hermitage Road
Richmond, VA 23220

Phone: (804) 521-1328

Email: Dr. Angela Ivey (aivey@richmondspca.org)

[Visit Website](#)

Tallahassee Animal Services

Externship Overview:

The Tallahassee Animal Service Center (ASC) is a regional animal shelter owned by the city of Tallahassee, which serves the surrounding community. Our facility is an open-admission facility which takes in approximately 6,000 animals annually, including dogs and cats and some exotics and small livestock. The Veterinary team deals with the issues of overpopulation, stray and abandoned animals, population medicine, and animal neglect on a daily basis. In addition to the urgent and emergency medical care provided to the animals, the veterinary team is responsible for surgical sterilization of all adoptable animals.

The primary purpose of the externship is to expose veterinary students to the many aspects of shelter medicine. Under the guidance of our shelter and forensic veterinarians, students will participate in a variety of shelter medicine situations including: managing medical cases of injured and ill animals, surgical sterilization of our shelter animals, performing and interpreting diagnostics (on-site diagnostic lab and digital radiology), and assisting with our heartworm treatment program. Students also gain a better understanding of shelter medicine with exposure to shelter operations including our intake, sheltering, behavioral enrichment and adoption protocols.

Due to the nature of shelter medicine, the exact activities will vary by season and ongoing activities; however, approximately 20% of the extern's time will be spent in surgery assisting and/or performing routine spays and neuters. We work closely with two different animal control agencies as well as local law enforcement. Externs will also have the option to spend time in the field with Animal Control Officers.

Number of Veterinarians: 2 FT, 0 PT

Contact Information:

1125 Easterwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Phone: (850) 891-2950

Email: N/A

[Click here](#) for application information.

[Visit Website](#)

Student Quotes:

"This externship would be perfect for students who have a special interest in forensics because Dr. Barton is very experienced in this area. Learning about veterinary forensics was one of my favorite experiences during this externship. I also got to experience multiple cruelty cases and see how animal control operates and works together with the veterinarians."

Brooke, Class of 2020
