Leaders in Animal Care

Animal Care is a leader in determining standards of humane care and treatment for animals in the United States. As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), we carry out and enforce these standards through inspection, education, and cooperative work with States, industry, and nongovernmental organizations.

A Unique Opportunity

We are dedicated to attracting and recruiting a diverse workforce to advance our goals. In doing so, we see great value in hiring students to help them link academic learning with professional employment. Animal Care has developed a robust externship program that allows motivated students to gain unpaid work experience in various areas of interest. Externships last from 1 to 4 weeks. Opportunities are based on the availability of Animal Care personnel throughout the United States, and include but are not limited to:

- Working with veterinary medical officers and other Animal Care personnel
- Policy development
- Stakeholder engagement

These opportunities fall in organizational areas as varied as:

- Enforcement
- Administrative support
- Resource management
- Compliance inspections
- Information technology
- Nonclinical veterinary care
- Emergency programs

If you extern with us, we'll work with you to develop an individual learning plan to maximize the benefits of your externship experience, both for you and for Animal Care.

Want To Apply?

If you're enrolled full- or part-time in a regionally accredited college or university and you have a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or better, you're eligible to apply. To do so, submit the following materials to acextern@aphis.usda.gov:

- **Your resume**, including work experience, educational institution, major, GPA, and expected graduation date
- **A narrative essay** of 750–1,000 words answering the following questions:
  - Why are you interested in an externship in Animal Care?
  - What do you want to gain from the externship experience?
  - How does this experience relate to your career aspirations?
  - What contribution will you make to the Animal Care program?
  - What are your preferred dates of participation?

When To Apply

Externship opportunities are available on a rolling basis, and we will consider applications submitted at any time. However, if you want to extern at a particular time, the key deadlines are:

- **July 1 for fall**
- **December 2 for spring**
- **April 1 for summer**

We encourage you to apply early to allow time for placement and accommodations.

Other Information

We accept students based on Animal Care's needs and priorities and students' interests. Unforeseen circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster) may force us to cancel established externship opportunities, but we will make every effort to find alternatives to cancellation.

If selected, you are responsible for your housing and transportation costs, as well as other personal expenses during the externship. You will be required to sign a Confidentiality Disclosure and a Volunteer Agreement.

Contact Us

For more information on externship opportunities, email Animal Care at acextern@aphis.usda.gov or call us at (301) 851-3751.

To learn more about the Animal Care program in general, visit us online at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/index.shtml.

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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Animal Care Externship Program for College and University Students

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