

Dear Doctor,

North Dakota State University Veterinary Technology students are arranging their externship experiences. The AVMA requires that each graduate of an accredited veterinary technology program spend a period of clinical experience in a veterinary practice. We also require that the clinic employ a technician who is a graduate of an AVMA accredited veterinary technology program to serve as a role model for the student. If you are not on file as an NDSU externship site, please fill out and return the enclosed externship practice questionnaire.

Veterinary practices that serve as externship stations play a vital role in veterinary technician education. They offer the realistic look at veterinary practice that we can't give students in school. The externships provide students with an opportunity to develop professional skills, responsibility and judgment.

The questionnaire asks you to identify some of the experiences you can offer the students. We don't expect any practice to offer everything on the list, but we want to be sure they will gain as many useful experiences as possible. The safety of our students is also of utmost importance to us. While they do need to learn what will be expected of them in practice, please proceed slowly if a situation is initially uncomfortable for them. Students have been informed they are *not* covered by insurance (health or liability) through your clinic or the university.

The externship offers some opportunities for you too. As a participating practice you will benefit from having a motivated, educated student in your practice. In many cases the externship may provide a cost-effective means of recruiting and screening future employees. And you will participate in the education of today's students and tomorrow's veterinary technicians.

Participating practices are requested to provide or help with housing for extern students. The students cover food and other personal expenses. If students are contributing to the practice it is expected that they will be paid appropriately. **Students earn 6 credits for a 6- week (240 hours) externship or 12 credits for a 10-week (400 hours) externship** and must pay full tuition. The length of the minimum externship has changed because of the increased hours they now spend during their academic years in the Clinical Veterinary Practicum.

Even though we are sometimes remiss in expressing our thanks, we appreciate practices that participate in the externship program. We look forward to working with your practice as we continue working together to educate high-quality veterinary technicians. Thank you.

Sincerely,

12/06/07

Eloyes Hill, Instructor
Veterinary Technology Program