



# MYSTIC AQUARIUM

## Veterinary Technician Externship

Mystic Aquarium is not just a great place to visit, it's a wonderful place to work! We are proud of our reputation for excellence in marine research and education via interdisciplinary and highly collaborative strategies. Everyone here plays an integral role in working toward the accomplishment of our mission to protect our oceans.

*The mission of Mystic Aquarium is to inspire people to care for and protect our ocean planet through conservation, education, and research. Sea Research Foundation, Inc., seeks to achieve this mission by creating thought-provoking encounters with marine life, conducting research that advances aquatic animal husbandry and health serving as an interpreter of marine science discoveries and conservation issues, sharing resources and expertise with the scientific and education communities, and pursuing these endeavors with a commitment to excellence and innovation.*

The **Veterinary Technician Externship** program at Mystic Aquarium provides veterinary technology students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain experience in aquatic animal medicine. Students are exposed to the veterinary care and husbandry of a diverse range of species including cetaceans (beluga whales), pinnipeds (seals and sea lions), teleosts (fish), invertebrates, marine reptiles (sea turtles), terrestrial reptiles, penguins, amphibians, and elasmobranchs (sharks and rays). Externs assist the veterinary team with the medical management of aquarium animals as well as the rehabilitation of sea turtles and marine mammals in Mystic Aquarium's Animal Rescue Program. Externs also participate in necropsy evaluations, clinical analyses, and clinical case rounds. Externs are expected to prepare a presentation by the end of their experience. The veterinary technician externship is an unpaid position. Housing and transportation are not provided. *This externship is intended for current students and recent graduates of veterinary technology programs ONLY, it is not designed for veterinary assistants, vet med students, or those planning to attend veterinary medical school.*

### Required Application Documents:

The following application materials should be submitted (via email) to Mystic Aquarium's Veterinary Hospital Manager: Steven Nelson, CVT; [snelson@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:snelson@mysticaquarium.org). Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

- 1) **Resume/curriculum vitae (CV)**
- 2) **Letter of intent-** *Please include a) your current experience in aquatic and zoo medicine, b) why this externship is valuable for your career goals, and c) your three preferred/available time periods for an externship (in order of preference).*
- 3) **Veterinary technology school transcripts** (*unofficial are acceptable*)
- 4) **Two letters of recommendation**
- 5) **Vet tech program coordinator approval** (if seeking credits)

### Candidate Acceptance:

Acceptance to the program is at the discretion of Mystic Aquarium. Notification of selection to the program will be via email communication and official acceptance will follow HR review (background check and proof of COVID-19 vaccine verification).

### Externship Scheduling:

Externships are generally 2-8 weeks in duration and offered during the throughout the year. Applicants are considered on a rolling-basis and according to scheduling flexibility. Recent graduates are expected to be available 40 hours per week (generally 08:00-16:30, M-F). Scheduling logistics for summer and fall externships or practicum semester credit-seeking students may be arranged on an individual basis.

### Collegiate Partnerships:

Mystic Aquarium does not have any formal agreements or programs established with specific colleges or universities, but we are flexible and willing to accommodate students with collegiate requirements such as practicum learning objectives and skills list. Those seeking semester credits will refine skills learned in previous coursework. Externs will be supervised by 3 credentialed veterinary technicians and 3 licensed veterinarians.

### Candidate Qualifications:

Current student or recent graduate from an AVMA CVTEA accredited Veterinary Technology Program with a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA.

### Position Requirements:

- At least 18 years old
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of sensitive information
- Ability to work well independently and with a team
- Communicate professionally and effectively
- Flexibility with scheduling
- Ability to work in inclement weather conditions

### Position Preferences:

- Goal to obtain VTNE certification, or current certification as a licensed/certified/registered veterinary technician
- Prior zoo or aquarium volunteer, internship, externship, or employment experience
- Member of NAVTA, AZVT, regional memberships, and collegiate clubs
- Completion of an exotic animal medicine course

*\*Mystic Aquarium is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, part of Sea Research Foundation, Inc., and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. It is our policy to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, sex, color, religion, national origin, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Women and underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. Mystic Aquarium participates in E-Verify.*

*\*\*Please note that individuals must have received (or be willing to receive) COVID-19 vaccination as well as applicable booster vaccines by the date of externship offer. Proof must be submitted to HR on the first day via an official vaccination card.*