

Q: Where did you intern, and when?

I interned at the New England Wildlife Center in the summer of 2013.

Q: Was it a paid internship? What did you do there?

The internship was unpaid. While there, I acted as a veterinary intern assisting the veterinarians with surgeries, medications, and physical evaluations. I cared for orphaned wildlife by rearing them to adulthood and performing regular husbandry on a variety of mammalian, avian, and reptile species including a great-horned owl, bat, coyote, hummingbird, and Eastern box turtle. Additionally, I took part in weekly educational rounds where I learned about wildlife diseases, performed necropsies, and studied anatomy and histology of reptile and avian species. As the center's primary focus is education, I also interacted with the public teaching them about the different wild animals we had and explained how they can preserve wildlife and their environments. Moreover, I also triaged both wildlife and exotic patients and learned how to interact with owners. This allowed me to gain the most knowledge concerning the history and condition of the animals so that I could best care for these creatures.

Q: When did you apply for this internship?

I applied for the internship February 15, 2013.

Q: How long did the internship last?

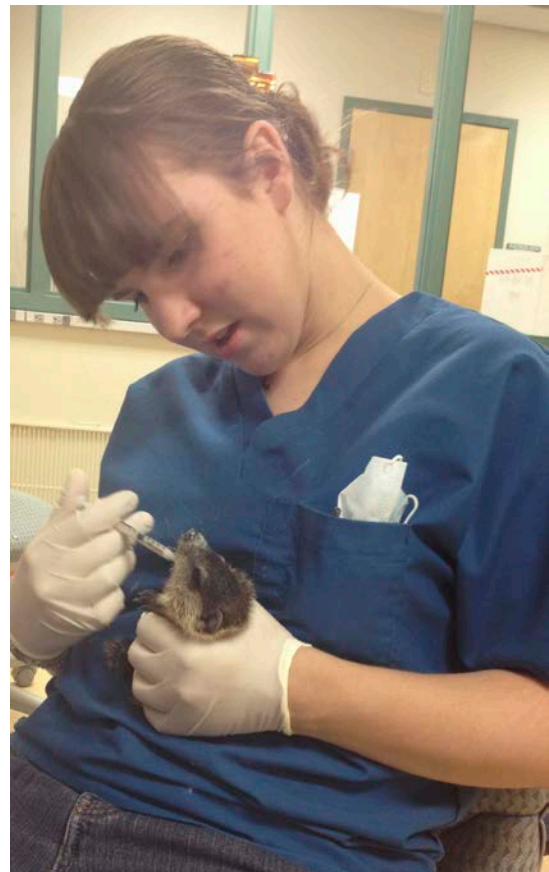
The internship went from May 12, 2013 to August 23, 2013.

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

I learned about this internship through online research I performed for pre-veterinary internships.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add about your experience?

I would like to note that this experience is extremely hands-on. The veterinarians at the center mainly focus on educating the public and interns as seen in the center's mission statement. Also, there are many interns who participate each year in each different season; however, only the summer has an application deadline. Other seasons have applications on a rolling admission system. During my summer internship, we had between twenty and thirty interns at the center. Interestingly, not all were pre-veterinary but instead, some were veterinary technicians and others wanted to work with wildlife in areas such as zoos and rehabilitation centers. Also, most interns did not stay for the entire summer but came for 8 to 10 weeks.



Furthermore, I highly recommend starting as early as at the center as possible. I believe that my early start date helped me be accepted into the program and learn more. This is because early in the summer most colleges have not finished yet so the center doesn't have enough volunteers to care for the massive amount of orphaned animals that it takes in during this season.



Q: What is your area of interest as an ANSC major?

My area of interest is veterinary medicine with a focus in infectious zoonotic disease especially in regards to food microbiology.

Q: So, what are your plans when you graduate?

After I graduate, I plan to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine. I am also interested in potentially pursuing a Ph.D in infectious disease.

Q: If someone has questions, can they contact you regarding your internship experience?

Please feel free to contact me by email at Leanne.Jankelunas@uconn.edu if you have any questions.