



An interview with ANSC Major Annie Oakes Regarding her Burnt Hills Veterinary Hospital Internship (*New York, Summer 2013*)

Q: Where did you intern, and when? What was your status? (*i.e. sophomore, junior, etc...*)

This summer I interned at Burnt Hills Veterinary Hospital, in Burnt Hills, NY. BHVH is a 10 doctor, small animal veterinary clinic and animal hospital. I stayed from June 3rd until August 16th, 2013. This was the summer between my sophomore and junior year at UConn.

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

The internship I set up was unpaid. I had a set of objectives that I wanted to fulfill by the end of the summer, but day to day I was allowed to “go where the action was” in order to experience as many different aspects of the practice as possible. In the morning I helped with treatments and morning checks of the inpatients. At 8:30 every morning I sat in on vet rounds, which was my favorite part of the day. During rounds they would trade cases and put their heads together to solve particularly difficult ones. In the morning most days I would observe and assist in surgery, and in the afternoon I would restrain patients for ultrasounds or other procedures. This provided me with both hands on experience and gave me a lot of one on one time with the veterinarians.

Q: When did you apply for this internship?

During the month of May, as soon as the semester was over and I got home from school, I was in contact with Burnt Hills Veterinary Hospital. From start to finish, our first conversation to the day I started, was only about 2 weeks. There was no formal application process; the only forms that had to be filled out were the forms for the ANSC 3691 internship for course credit.

Q: How long did the internship last?

June 3rd until July 31st (9 weeks)

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

The way I went about obtaining this internship was very “old-fashioned.” I spent the first few weeks after I got home from UConn going door to door to all of the vet practices in the area surrounding my house, asking if they could take an intern that would work for free. BHVH was the only place that was willing to teach me, and while I was there, their dedication to teaching the next generation of veterinary medical workers was apparent. During the time I spent there 2 other vet student externs, a vet tech intern, a newly graduated vet student, as well as various high school students shadowing, accompanied me.

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

At the end of my internship, I asked if it would be possible to extend our arrangement until the end of the summer. I felt that both parties were benefiting. I had learned more than I could ever imagine, and they were getting tons of free work. After our conversation, the decision was made to hire me as a part time veterinary technician assistant! I spent the last 3 weeks of August on the payroll, and have a place there during the winter break and summer months. I cannot express how grateful I am for the time I have been able to spend at BHVH.

Q: What is your current status (*i.e. sophomore, etc...*) and what is your area of interest as an ANSC major?

Currently, I am a junior Animal Science major on the Pre-Vet track. I am also currently pursuing the possibility of adding Pathobiology as a second major.

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

When I graduate, I hope to continue my education in graduate school. My current goal is vet school, but I am also considering a research PhD or something similar. This internship has cemented the fact that veterinary medicine is my passion, and wherever I end up, I hope to make valuable contributions to the field.

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

Please do! If you have any questions or interest in doing an internship at BHVH, or any vet practice, or in doing the ANSC 3691 internship for course credit, feel free to contact me at: ann.oakes@uconn.edu