

**An interview with ANSC Major Victoria Thomas
regarding her Mansfield Animal Control Internship**

(Connecticut, Fall 2012)

Q: Where did you intern, and when?

I am currently interning at Mansfield Animal Control for the length of the fall semester.

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

It is unpaid. Noranne Nielsen, the officer that I am working under will, for the most part, let me help with everything. There is a lot of cleaning involved (cages and kennels, dishes, etc.), feeding, grooming, walking dogs, and socializing cats and kittens. I also answer phones and take messages. I take part in the adoption process, which includes calling the veterinarian



of potential adopters and filling out paperwork. There is also minor vetting that occurs at the shelter for our resident animals, and Noranne has me assist with restraining animals and will also explain to me what she is doing and why. I am also allowed to assist Noranne when she goes out to answer calls she's received, as long as she feels it would be safe for me to do so.

Q: When did you apply for this internship?

May 2012. There wasn't exactly an application process. Noranne said she had never had an intern before, so we met to discuss the possibility of putting a program together.

Q: How long did the internship last?

It will end when this semester is over, however Noranne seemed flexible as to the length of me staying. She appreciates the extra help with how many animals we currently have!

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

I was thinking of applying to internships at Mystic Aquarium and Beardsley Zoo, but the deadlines for both were, at that point, coming up quick, and I wanted to know where I would be working come fall ASAP. Then I realized with how much coursework I have as well as working, that an hour to an hour and a half commute to and from an unpaid internship multiple times a week would not be feasible. I started looking online for different places close to campus that would offer hands-on experience with animals that might offer an internship, since I didn't mind working for free. That's when I found Mansfield Animal Control and called to set something up.

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

Noranne is wonderful to work with and wants to teach you anything you want to know. This is definitely a perfect hands-on opportunity that is very close to campus! I have only been here for three weeks and I have already taken part in finding a handful of cats good homes. It is a very rewarding place to be, and you will definitely learn something new every day.



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

I am interested in animal rehabilitation and behavior.

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

Becoming an animal control officer is definitely a possibility for me.

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

Absolutely! Victoria.Thomas@uconn.edu