



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

Thailand, Spring Semester 2017. I was a sophomore at the time.

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

No it was not paid. There was so much we did that I can't possibly write it all here, but between the write-up and this short summary it should cover everything, I think!

During my Veterinary Semester Abroad, I traveled to many different parts of Thailand learning about and caring for a variety of different species of animals. We started with your basic cats and dogs, where we learned how to properly restrain, how to draw blood, give

vaccines, place catheters and more. We then took that knowledge to the mountains where a trained staff and our group of students did a 4-day sterilization clinic for the villages there. The students were in charge of the physical exams of each animal, prepping them for surgery, monitoring them while they were under anesthesia (under the watchful eye of our anesthesiologist), and recovering them. We did a total of 125 dogs and cats during that week and I personally was in charge of about 20 of those cases. From there we went to the island of Koh Tao to learn about marine life. There we were able to help the New Heaven Dive School with their research as we did surveys of the invertebrates, fish, giant clams and even black tipped reef sharks. We also had the chance to see and swim with two green sea turtles! Two other students and I were also given the chance to become SCUBA certified and it was absolutely incredible! After our three weeks there were up, we traveled to Phuket for a few days to spend time with the staff at the Phuket Aquarium to learn more about sea turtles. We helped take blood samples, weights and measurements of some of the sea turtles there in order to help further their research about Sea Turtle Conservation. Once that was over, we moved on to what everyone was impatiently waiting for, the elephants! We traveled to Elephants World in Kanchanaburi to learn all about these amazing creatures. Everyday we helped the vet students on staff there treat elephants. Some received daily treatment while others came in less frequently. We also started a system that would help the vets track changes in the elephants' health over a certain period. We cataloged the history of each elephant, their health, type of substrate they sleep on, food they eat, etc. We also took pictures of each of their feet, their eyes and ears, and full body pictures from all sides. We also gave the elephants (and some of their mahouts) de-wormers as well as Tetanus vaccines. Yes, I had the opportunity to stick my hand up and elephant's butt and you bet I took it! Unfortunately, our two weeks there ended and we traveled back to our main home, Chiang Mai. After our spring break, we went straight to the Chiang Mai Night Safari for our exotic animal course. We were taught about so many different species and we got the chance to work with many of them as well which was mind blowing. My favorite part, besides taking the heartbeat of a jaguar, had to be our enrichment project. We were each assigned a specific species to enrich, and I got the meerkats. I gave them multiple types of enrichment, from bubble blowers

to a couple of my own creations and they absolutely loved them. It was amazing how curious and intelligent they were. Towards the end of this course they even taught us how to shoot a blow dart gun (which I became quite good at) and even how to make homemade blow darts. Before we knew it, it was over. 14 weeks flew by so fast, and now that I am home, it does not seem real! This was a trip of a lifetime and I cannot even begin to tell you how much I miss my second home, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Q: When did you apply for this internship?

February 2016

Q: How long did the internship last?

I was there for a total of 14 weeks.

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

Google

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

It was the best decision I have made.

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

I am now a junior and I am pre-vet.

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

To go to veterinary school.

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

Of course! Mackenzie.Woods@uconn.edu.

