

Name: Alexandra Gallina

Q: Where did you intern, and when?

A: Sweetbriar Nature Center, Smithtown, Long Island, New York from June to August 2014.

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

A: My internship was unpaid, but there are paid positions available for those who have volunteered there in the past. I worked in the wildlife rehabilitation sector of the center. On a daily basis, I was involved in taking care of any wildlife brought in, including songbirds, raptors, opossums, squirrels, rabbits and foxes. Most of the animals brought in were young or abandoned animals that required frequent feedings and specialized care until they could be released. In addition to feedings, I was also involved in food preparation, cleaning cages, inspecting and checking in new animals.

Q: When did you apply for this internship?

A: I applied for this internship in January 2014.

Q: How long did the internship last?

A: Most internships at Sweetbriar last 10 weeks. Arrangements can also be made for shorter internships and in some cases housing is available.

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

A: I learned about this opportunity through researching local wildlife rehabilitators on the internet. I also attended camp programs at Sweetbriar as a child.

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

A: I had a fantastic experience with Sweetbriar. The curator really ensures that you learn a lot from your internship. All work is very hands on. In addition to regular work during the day, I sometimes took animals home that need around-the-clock care. This included taking home young songbirds, squirrels and rabbits that needed extra feedings in the evenings and mornings.

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

A: As an Animal Science major, I am particularly interested in large animals and am mainly taking classes that will best prepare me for a career in veterinary medicine.

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



A: After I graduate I plan to attend veterinary school. I hope to eventually become a large animal or exotic animal veterinarian.

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

A: Of course, I would love to answer any questions and can be contacted at alexandra.gallina@uconn.edu!