



Veterinary Technician Internship Position

Internship Location: PAALS Facility, 221 N. Grampian Hills Road Columbia, SC 29223

Focus of the Internship: To assist Palmetto Animal Assisted Life Services (PAALS) in the daily operation of the facility. The veterinary technician internship primarily involves animal husbandry, medical responsibilities, as well as administrative duties. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, assisting animal care coordinator, trainers, and other PAALS staff as needed. The intern will perform various animal care duties alongside the staff while gaining valuable animal care experience and knowledge about PAALS philosophies.

Learning Opportunities: Learn the care and husbandry challenges of the animals in our training program; gain knowledge of PAALS and how its program fits into the larger picture of assisting persons with disabilities in our community; exposure to the operations of an animal care facility; gain valuable hands on animal care experience and knowledge of proper diet and enrichment.

Orientation/Training Orientation: History and tour of PAALS, overview of programs, description of rules and protocols, paperwork to complete, and overview of basic safety procedures and daily shift routines. Interns will be given access to manuals and an intern handbook at the beginning of internship. Interns will receive on-site training specific to the role by working alongside the PAALS team, meeting with the intern supervisor on a regular basis; on-the-job training will continue in levels as the intern progresses to the next stage of responsibility.

Intern Responsibilities: Observe and monitor health and well-being of animals and maintain detailed observation records as directed; observe the animals for body composition changes, stool and urine observations, lethargy, feeding and eating responses, and stress levels; identify potential health issues and inform staff and management of conditions noted through observations, as needed. Assist with training sessions and outings as needed. Assists with assessing sick and injured animals and arrangement for veterinary assessment/treatment if needed. Assists with dispensing medication as needed.

Housekeeping Tasks: Complete general housekeeping tasks, using appropriate equipment and disinfecting agents; sweep, mop, and wipe down work area counters; ensure proper removal of garbage and compost; launder towels and bedding as needed; empty, wash, and sanitize food bowls daily; keep food storage and work areas neat and tidy; wash out carriers and/or kennels; learn to identify animals individually; assist in maintenance of animal treatment and medication records; note observations on feeding sheets, including appropriate behavioral and health concerns; maintain equipment by regular cleaning.



PALMETTO ANIMAL ASSISTED LIFE SERVICES
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Qualifications/Requirements for Intern Applicants: Must have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to maintain a professional attitude and appearance in person and on the telephone with staff and members of the public; ability to work closely with the PAALS staff and to think strategically in order to meet the program's needs; pay attention to detail and be committed to accuracy; ability to work independently and use good judgment; willingness to work as a member of the team; ability to learn, follow directions, and make appropriate suggestions; ability to be organized and tidy, as interns are responsible for keeping kennels, facility, and the surrounding grounds clean and trash-free; strong personal work ethic, demonstrating flexibility, and an eagerness take initiative for a variety of responsibilities; willingness to learn and demonstrate a familiarity with PAALS programs; desire to learn and practice the Assistance Dog International (ADI) policies and positions procedures regarding service dogs and animal protection issues; willing to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when representing PAALS to the community; thorough understanding of PAALS mission; volunteer experience or previous internship working with animals is preferred; knowledge of animal husbandry and/or animal handling experience highly desired.

Restrictions: Must be at least 18 years of age; must have reliable transportation and arrive on time for shifts; a valid driver's license and a clean driving record; closed-toed, rubber-soled shoes are required; ability to learn and follow guidelines and policies of PAALS and follow directions given by PAALS staff; submitted the required paperwork before being assigned.

Internship Start Date- Ongoing: Interns must commit to approximately 32 hours per week for 12 weeks; available year-round. If in an academic program that has different requirements, PAALS will work to accommodate that schedule. Internship Scheduling Guidelines Hours will vary depending on the time of year, but usually occur between 8am and 6 pm.