



College of Natural Science and Mathematics
Department of Veterinary Medicine

UAF Externship Opportunities 2022-2023

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) is offering veterinary medicine externships for matriculating veterinary students from other colleges (in their final or next to final clinical year). Students may work in conjunction with local (Fairbanks, Alaska) Alaska state agencies, the lead veterinarian of the Yukon Quest, rural veterinarians, state agencies and veterinary research faculty at UAF.

Through this program, students will be exposed to the unique aspects of veterinary medicine in Alaska. From modern clinics with new equipment (digital x-ray, ultrasound, endoscopy, etc.), to spay and neuter opportunities in rural communities (off the road system), these externships promise to be valuable to any student thinking of practicing in Alaska, or students who want a unique cultural experience.

In order to participate, you must recognize that Alaska is remote, specialists are not often available, and particularly in the bush, incomes are low and the standard of care may be lower than what you have experienced in a referral institution.

Visits are limited to six weeks (with no more than four weeks on one service). Requests for extension will be determined on a case by case basis. Demonstrated competence and proficiency in both spoken and written English language skills are required to facilitate the educational process and client communications.

We are accepting applications from veterinary students to participate in this program. The veterinarian in charge of the specific externship experience that students apply for will make final selections. Students from all tracks are encouraged to apply. Please attach your current curriculum vitae or resume and a one-page essay describing your interest in the program, how it will benefit you and describe what skills and perspective you can bring to Alaska. All students must provide two references from current mentors or faculty. Applications must be submitted to uaf-vet-med@alaska.edu. Colorado students send your application to Debbie Liptak at dliptak@colostate.edu and copy uaf-vet-med@alaska.edu.

To be accepted, students must have written approval from their home university and two letters of reference from faculty in their department.

Copper Basin 300 Sled Dog Race - Up to 2 students working with the Veterinarian in Charge (Dr. Nina Hansen)

Arrive in Fairbanks January 9 or 10, 2023,

Drive to Glennallen on January 12, 2023

Race starts January 14, 2023

Race finishes January 17, 2023

Drive back to Fairbanks January 18, 2023

Wrap up & fly home by January 20, 2023





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Yukon Quest – Up to 2 students working with the Veterinarian in Charge (Dr. Nina Hansen)

Assuming the race is back to its normal 1,000 mile international format:

Arrive in Fairbanks January 30, 2023

Bus to Whitehorse on January 31, 2023

Pre-race meetings and vet checks the rest of that week (in Whitehorse)

Race starts on February 4, 2023

Last finisher finishes (in Fairbanks) February 16 or 17, 2023

Finish banquet February 18, 2023 (in Fairbanks)

Student can fly home after that. If needed, Dr. Hansen can work with student on a small project to round out a 4-week externship.

Application Deadline for Dog Sled Externships: July 15, 2022 – selections completed September

2022 Required skills for dogsled races: Both of these races take place in the middle of the Alaskan winter. It can get **very cold**. Temperatures of **-50° to -60° F** are not unheard of. You will be expected to work outside in these temperatures, day or night. Additionally, you will be required to work well in a team, the Yukon Quest veterinary team typically consists of 10-12 veterinarians working very closely together for 2 weeks. The Yukon Quest runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until all teams have finished. The YQ veterinary team lives out of suitcases on the road for 2 weeks, be prepared to move at a moments notice, and be prepared to go several days without indoor plumbing or a shower. There are checkpoints where you will be sleeping on the floor of a gymnasium, in a running car, an Arctic oven tent, or in the cab of a fire truck. Finally, the Yukon Quest is an international race, if you are applying for this race, **a passport is required**.

Aurora Animal Clinic, Dr. Barbara Cole DVM, CCRP: Caring and compassionate full service small animal practice with emphasis on rehabilitation and sports medicine. Available for up to 2 externs during a 4-week period during the summer of 2021. Student will get exposure to various aspects of small animal private practice including diagnostic imaging, general and orthopedic surgeries, internal medicine cases, wellness exams, rehabilitation, chemotherapy, etc. This is a busy clinic that works with the Department of Veterinary Medicine at UAF. Housing options are available if needed. Any questions about this rotation should be directed to bcole@auroraanimal.com.

Dr. Hollmen's laboratory at the Alaska SeaLife Center: This opportunity will occur in in Seward, Alaska, a world-class marine animal research and rehabilitation facility. The extern will learn about research centering on the One Health concept by participating in projects relating marine animal health and conservation in the Arctic, in the context of ecosystem health. Student opportunities involve laboratory research using physiological, molecular and biochemical methods, animal health, and may involve an opportunity to participate in field investigations on marine ecology and disease epidemiology.

