



**College of Natural Science and Mathematics**  
Department of Veterinary Medicine

**UAF Externship Opportunities 2020-2021**

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. A committee will select the students. 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](mailto:uaf-vet-med@alaska.edu). Colorado students send your application to Debbie Liptak at [dliptak@colostate.edu](mailto:dliptak@colostate.edu) and copy [uaf-vet-med@alaska.edu](mailto: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)

Week 1 - January 4, 2021, Orientation and training

Week 2 - January 11, 2021, Race begins in Glennallen, Alaska





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

Week 1 – January 25 – January 29, 2021 Orientation and training

Week 2 – Race begins February 6 from Whitehorse

Week 3 – On the Trail

Week 4 – Finish Race (about 2/20/21) Ends in Fairbanks

*Application Deadline for Dog Sled Externships: July 15, 2020 – selections completed September 2020*

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, as this is an international 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 1 extern during a 4-week period during the summer of 2020. 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.

**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.

**Chena Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Renee Rember, DVM, MS**

Chena Veterinary Clinic in downtown Fairbanks, Alaska is a small intimate clinic seeing mainly small animals as well as exotics and some small ruminants. Accepting one 4th year student at a time for 2-4 week rotations year round. This is a small clinic that focuses on building strong client relationships and providing exceptional care. Radiographs, MRI through UAF, ultrasound, ECG, laser treatment, full surgery suite, and dental radiograph capabilities. Great opportunity for hands on learning, surgery experience, ICU, walk in emergencies, at home euthanasia, and more. We see





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many wellness exams, internal medicine cases, dentals, spays/neuters, and sled dog kennel health. Follow cases from start to finish and work on building your diagnostic skills, client communication skills, and overall small practice management.

