



*Humane Society of Greater Rochester*

## **Surgical-Shelter Medicine Externship Program Description**

### **Objective:**

The student will gain a comprehensive overview of the animal sheltering system, shelter medicine and develop specific veterinary skills. This externship includes spay/neuter and other surgical experience.

### **Requirements:**

The student must have completed at least 2.5 years of coursework at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine. Junior surgery and the soft tissue surgical rotation must be completed prior to visiting the shelter.

### **Housing:**

Lollypop Farm allows veterinary students to stay in the home next to the shelter free of charge (subject to change). The house is fully furnished with facilities for cooking.

### **Minimum Length of Externship:**

Two weeks. (Note: this externship is usually not available during the summer months when the number of animals in the shelter is large.)

### **Description:**

The extern will be exposed to shelter medicine and the workings of a large open-admission non-profit shelter. The student will participate in rounds and discussions about cases present in the shelter from individual and herd health perspectives. Both shelter medicine and private practice approaches to patients will be discussed. Strategies used to prevent and combat disease (including zoonotic disease) will be presented. Students will have the opportunity to observe behavior assessment and temperament testing in dogs and cats. As the case load allows, students may observe the examination and documentation of victims of animal cruelty and the handling of evidence, as well as forensic necropsies. There may also be an opportunity to ride with cruelty investigators. The extern will have the opportunity to hone their physical examination skills as well as practice tasks such as venipuncture, cystocentesis, intubation, skin scraping, cytology, and radiographic interpretation.

Additionally, the student will, under the observation and guidance of the veterinarian, perform a variety of surgeries on a daily basis. Surgeries include sterilization of shelter animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, pot bellied pigs), orthopedic procedures (Fracture repair, FHO, amputation), and soft tissue procedures (mass removal, cystotomy, enterotomy, etc). Types and quantity of surgeries performed by the student are a function of the cases present in the shelter and the student's ability.

### **Contact Information:**

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