

## Hagyard Equine Medical Institute

### Veterinary Assistant Internship Program



What does a **Veterinary Assistant (VA) Internship** at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute's, **McGee Medicine Center** look like? It looks like more than 2,500 cases seen in a six month time frame, 450 plus foals with 300 being compromised neonatal cases, 200 colic cases both surgical and non-surgical, and some of the best hands-on experience you can obtain through an internship program! For a decade, Hagyard

has offered VA Internships to college students from all over of the United States. The VA Internship requires a six month commitment from January through June, working full time, at the McGee Medicine Center. The responsibilities of a VA Intern include: monitoring patients' vital signs and progress, as well as administering medications and treatments; maintaining accurate patient charts, documenting observations and proper interpretation of veterinarian instruction; providing hay, feed and water to patients; and, assisting veterinarians with procedures.

For a student interested in a career as a veterinarian, it's all about experiences! Pan feeding a newborn foal is just one of the many experiences VA Interns will have during the internship. In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, VA Interns work with compromised foals in their first two weeks of life. 2015 VA Intern Megan Seewald, from Texas A&M University, said, "You begin to bond with them since they're your patients every day for the week so it's really gratifying to see them move in a positive direction and it reminds me why I want to be a veterinarian". A week long orientation, continuing education opportunities, and strong mentorship during the internship have contributed to more than 200 students successfully completing the internship program, since its inception in 2008.



**Veterinary Assistant Internship** opportunities are also offered in the **Hagyard Field Care Department** from January through June. With more than 30 ambulatory doctors servicing over 8,500 clients, a typical day in the field includes visiting some of the most beautiful farms in Central Kentucky while looking after some of the finest horses in the world! The responsibilities of VA Interns working with Field Care doctors include: providing assistance and support to an ambulatory veterinarian in the delivery of primary care and

diagnostic services; holding and restraining patients for examination, treatment, and procedures; maintaining a clean, sanitary, and well-organized work area (Veterinarian's vehicle); completing medical records and other documents such as billing, reports, and charts for patients, as directed by the veterinarian; restocking the Veterinarian's vehicle with all medical equipment, drugs and supplies; and may act as the primary or relief driver for the Veterinarian.

With more than 6,000 surgical procedures performed each year, Hagyard qualifies as one of the largest equine surgical hospitals in the world. A **Veterinary Assistant Internship** at the **Davidson Surgery Center** will bring a wide range of experience. Hailley Stantz, 2019 VA Intern from University of Kentucky said, “I grew up here, but the excitement of being in the horse capitol of the world never gets old. I got to see some pretty renowned thoroughbred farms and horses in the clinic which was very cool.” The surgical expertise is complemented at the center by a broad range of diagnostics, such as scintigraphy, digital radiology, ultrasound, and MRI. The surgery VA Intern will learn from senior veterinary assistants while assisting seven surgeons. The primary role of the VA Intern will be to provide assistance and support to surgeons, veterinary interns, and surgery staff by holding and restraining patients for examination, treatment, procedures, and x-rays; assisting with emergency admissions, lameness evaluations, corrective farrier evaluations, and dystocias; monitoring colic patients; assisting in administering medications, checking vitals, and prepping surgery patients; as well as, maintaining a clean work space, sanitizing equipment and stocking supplies.

For students with an interest in equine reproduction, consider a **Veterinary Assistant Internship** in **theriogenology**, at the **McGee Fertility Center**. Few equine veterinary practices know the horse breeding industry as well as Hagyard Equine Medical Institute. A large part of the equine industry, as a whole and locally, Hagyard plays a pivotal role in the ever-growing local breeding programs we serve in the Lexington and surrounding area. We provide assisted reproductive services, from our three board certified theriogenologists at this center devoted solely to fertility-designed with the mare and foal in mind! Students in this program will have the opportunity to work in our state-of-the-art lab and 7 stall barn, responsible for duties such as: holding and restraining patients for exams, treatments, and procedures; assisting with embryo flushes; stallion semen collections; and semen processing/shipping, and freezing. Students may be present at breeding soundness exams and handle frozen semen for breeding mares. You will also gain practical knowledge of set up and cleanup for procedures, sanitizing and organizing treatment space, administering medications, stocking supplies, record-keeping, and hand grazing or walking patients.

Spring in Lexington, Kentucky is bustling with activities! The Kentucky Three-Day Event is the only Five Star event held in the United States and is located just across the street from Hagyard at the Kentucky Horse Park. Hagyard has an exclusive relationship with the Kentucky Three-Day Event to offer volunteer opportunities to VA Interns. The Keeneland racetrack spring meet offers world class racing and the Kentucky Derby is just an hour northwest of Hagyard on the first Saturday in May!



For more information about the Veterinary Assistant Internship programs offered at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, please visit the Hagyard website at [www.hagyard.com](http://www.hagyard.com). Applications are due on October 1 and should include a letter of intent and resume. E-mail applications to Jamie O’Flynn, Intern & Extern Coordinator, at [joflynn@hagyard.com](mailto:joflynn@hagyard.com) or feel free to contact her with any questions at (859) 685-3703.