

THE CONNECTION

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Q&A: STUDENT INTERNSHIP WITH MICHIGAN HUMANE

From the Michigan State University Veterinary School Vetschool Tails

The MSU College of Veterinary Medicine's Shelter Medicine Club brought in MHS doctors and employees to give presentations about working in shelter medicine. This relationship grew into the opportunity for this internship for the college's DVM students. Sara Lindo, DVM class of 2021, talks about her experience interning for the Michigan Humane Society (MHS) in Detroit for eight weeks.



Photo supplied by Sara Lindo

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE THIS INTERNSHIP?

I love shelter medicine. Since I began my veterinary journey, I've felt very strongly that I wanted to pursue shelter work, and that it was something I could be good at. I looked at this internship as a way to confirm that this is where I'm supposed to be.

I'm happy to say that it's been an affirmation of my desire to be a shelter veterinarian, and also an important opportunity to familiarize myself with what working in a large urban animal shelter is like. In a way, it's getting to test-drive my future a bit!

WHAT WAS THE DAY-TO-DAY OF THE INTERNSHIP LIKE?

The great thing about this internship is that we get to do something a little bit different every day. True to shelter medicine, few days are ever exactly alike, and they all present unique challenges. We see such a wide breadth and depth of cases — we get a variety of injuries and diseases — and we get to see, and sometimes participate in solutions to them. It's a little bit of internal medicine, herd health, surgery, and behavioral health all rolled into one! We also get a surprising variety of species — shelter medicine is not just dogs and cats! I've spent time with rabbits, birds (domestic and wild) and even young calves this summer.

We all have dedicated mentors that we discuss our ongoing skills goals with, and they help facilitate opportunities for us to see or practice specific procedures and skills. Because our group consists of both second- and third-year veterinary students, as well as pre-vet students, our goals are all unique and personal. This summer, I've gotten to practice drawing blood, prepping surgical patients, physical and behavioral exams, and setting up and interpreting lab tests.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE INTERNSHIP?

It's hard to say because I love so much about it, but probably the fact that we've really been welcomed and trusted to help out with so much. Also, that our mentors and other MHS personnel have taken an interest in us and helped us get unique opportunities and experiences within the shelter. Everyone has been excited to work with us, and they're very supportive. It's also been great to affirm my love and enjoyment of this field.

Also, probably all of the kittens. We take care of lots and lots of young kittens — it's kitten season, after all!



Photo supplied by Sara Lindo

Thank you Sara for your all your hard work this summer. Your dedication helped us to continue to make an impact. To read the full article, visit <https://cvm.msu.edu/vetschool-tails/q-a-student-internship-with-michigan-humane-society-in-detroit>

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR HELPFUL HINTS By Director of Behavior Programs, Beth Chamberlin

In the upcoming weeks, Beth Chamberlin, Director of Behavior Programs, will be sharing helpful animal behavior tips that you can use in the shelter or at home or share with your friends. If you would like to learn more about how to appropriately deal with a specific animal behavior, please email The Connection at theconnection@michiganhumane.org, and we will work to provide more information about that behavior in an upcoming Connection issue.

Back to school tips for your four-legged companions

As we swing into the “Back to School” season, our routines change, and our schedules become increasingly busy; this means fewer walks, less play time and a change in our feeding times. Our four-legged companions lose their playmates and walking buddies.

Sudden disruption to a pet’s routine can make even the most well-adjusted pet become anxious, and this can result in undesirable behavior like house soiling, separation anxiety or destructive behavior.

It would be advantageous for humans and our furry companions to consider transitioning into the season. Here are some suggestions that may help them acclimate to those changes.

- Start doing the first potty call a bit earlier if the family has been sleeping in during summer break
- Start going through some of the routine, such as getting up at the earlier time it takes to get ready for a school day
- Get breakfast ready, lunches prepared or even set out the lunch boxes, breakfast for the four legged friends
- Take a quick walk down the block or a quick enticement to chase the dangling toy for the felines
- Perhaps play a short round of fetch down the hall while getting coffee, or getting ready for the day
- Have the kids incorporate a special play time after school with a special toy reserved for this time only
- Enjoy a family stroll at the park in the early evening
- Establish a routine that works for the whole family and pets
- Leave the radio on, tuned in to slow relaxing music
- Add some surprises in the house for the pets to discover once you leave the house
 - Stuff a Kong with some cheese spread and freeze it overnight (this way it will last longer) then hide the Kong
 - For cats, fill a treat dispenser or treat puzzle

Exercise can be a great equalizer. A well-exercised pet is more likely to sleep than get into mischief.

A physically stimulated cat will be more likely to seek the prime sunny spot in the house instead of rearranging your knickknacks. Adding at least 15 to 20 minutes of play and exercise to your pet’s routine can help chase away anxiousness and boredom.

Doggie day care is a possible alternative for active dogs and could be just right for yours. Most dogs come home tired and happy, and isn’t that a good thing?

ROADSHOW REVIEW By Annual Fund Coordinator, Stephanie Moravec

Our Events and Annual Fund teams want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of the staff that registered and raised money for Mutt March! As promised when we visited before the event, a drawing was held for those who raised at least \$25 for the event either through self-donating or soliciting donations from others. Congratulations are in order for Stephanie Noble at Livingston, who won a \$25 gift card of her choice!



We also want to send a shout-out to the managers and supervisors who set aside time for us to come back out and talk to staff about our next three events: Giddy Up Pup, Doggie Dash and Animal House. If you were unable to attend the meetings, please make sure you talk to your supervisor about getting your Giddy Up Pup t-shirt and the flyer with info about how staff can register for free!

And don't forget our next prize drawing! Every staff member who registers and attends* both Giddy Up Pup and Doggie Dash will be entered to win two tickets to our new nighttime signature event, Animal House! *There will be a sign-in sheet at each event. If you are unable to attend one or both events due to your work schedule, you will still be entered in the drawing, and if you are chosen, we will confirm with HR that you were working the date of the event(s).

The important part is to make sure you register online for both events! We also encourage you to share your page on social media with friends and family — you never know who might decide to make a donation!

If you have any questions about these three events or the drawing, just send me an email at smoravec@michiganhumane.org or call me at x126, and I'll be happy to help!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION HELP

Hello everyone! We are busy designing the New Member Orientation and could use your help. Please think about the following questions and send your responses to The Connection at theconnection@michiganhumane.org.

1. How do you fulfill the mission?
2. What advice would you give to a new employee?
3. What is the most inspiring thing you have seen a co-worker do?

Thank you all for your help. We look forward to seeing all of your responses.

TRIVIA

Q. Which dog breed is known for its blue-black tongue?

Send your answers to theconnection@michiganhumane.org, and the first person to answer correctly will receive a free Michigan Humane t-shirt!

Issue 21 Trivia Answer: Three Years. Congrats to last week's winner, Katlyn Haynes.

JOB BOARD

Know someone who would be a great fit for the Michigan Humane team? Check out our job openings at michiganhumane.org/careers

**Animal Transport Evaluator/Driver
Behavioral Health Services Director
Clinic Veterinarian**

**Customer Service Representative
Licensed Veterinary Tech
Shelter Licensed Veterinary Tech**

**Shelter Medicine Manager
Shelter Veterinary Tech**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Two Million Penny Woof Sit

- When: Wednesday, September 4
- Where: Vinsetta Garage - Berley, MI

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo

- When: Friday, September 13 & Saturday, September 14
- Where: Detroit Zoo - Detroit, MI

Giddy Up Pup

- When: Sunday, September 22
- Where: Eastern Market - Detroit, MI

DTE Corporate Adoption Event

- When: Wednesday, September 25
- Where: Beacon Park - Detroit, MI

Doggie Dash

- When: Saturday, October 5
- Where: Kenington Metropark - Milford, MI

Great Lakes Animal Welfare Conference

- When: Monday, October 21 & Tuesday, October 22
- Where: Renaissance Center - Detroit, MI

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING CONTENT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF **THE CONNECTION**? SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO THECONNECTION@MICHIGANHUMANE.ORG