

Caitlin Heller

Junior

Major: Biomedical Sciences

Minor: Psychology

Internship Site: Rhinebeck Equine LLP

Rhinebeck Equine LLP is an equine veterinary practice offering in-patient as well as ambulatory services. The hospital provides ambulatory services in addition to emergency care, hospitalization and surgical services. The operating room is much like those seen in any hospital, except for the jumbo-sized instruments and a 2,500 pound lift to carry anesthetized horses to the operating table.

I chose Rhinebeck Equine for my internship because I have used their services for my own horses and appreciate their demeanor and professionalism. I have owned and ridden horses since I was a child and my career goal is to become an equine veterinarian.

I rode along with the vets as they traveled out to farms and stables to treat horses. I also made sure the vet was supplied with everything needed to perform the necessary procedures. I restocked the truck with any supplies that were depleted during the course of the day.

Something I realized during the internship is that equine vets are pretty much married to their jobs. They tend to work seven days a week, especially during the breeding season. You really need to be in love with the job to make that sacrifice.

This has given me large animal experience and recommendations that can boost my qualifications for vet school. Classes and studying are important but an internship is the only way to truly understand what day-to-day life is like in a career.

I chose this internship because I wanted to gain experience with and knowledge of large animals. I did an internship in high school with a veterinarian who mainly treated companion animals. I thought it would be interesting to expand my knowledge while observing and comparing the ways these veterinarians diagnosed and treated horses.

I watched the vets administer tests, perform ultrasounds, diagnose problems, and communicate with owners. I would sometimes be asked to fill syringes with vaccines and assist with procedures. I observed a dental cleaning, treatment of lame legs, a foal checkup, and an abscess on the hoof, the SNAP Foal IgG test, ultrasounds, vaccinations, and euthanasia. I was offered the opportunity to come back and help care for the foals in the spring.

An internship is a great way to see if the job you're striving for really fits. Internships help you narrow your focus. After completing this internship, I realized that although I want to work with animals I am not going to concentrate on treating horses.