Sherman native begins externship for Veterinary Technology Program

Dena Reynolds from Sherman, a student in the Veterinary Technology Program at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, has started her externship at Best Friends Animal Hospital in Denison. The externship is an 8 week-long program that is designed to give students real-world experience before they head out into the workforce. It is also a requirement for graduation from the program.

“Clinical externship is the culmination of a student’s Veterinary Technician education,” says Debbie Reed, Registered Veterinary Technician and Co-Director of the Murray State College Veterinary Technology Program. “It is the training ground where students are challenged to integrate all aspects of their education. This phase of training offers students the excitement and responsibility of applying the knowledge and skills they have learned.”

Under the guidance of Dr. Dale Butler and the staff of Best Friends Animal Hospital, Reynolds is getting hands on training in the care and handling of animals. She is undergoing training in a variety of areas including: client/pet anxiety, euthanasia, phone etiquette, staff relations, restraint procedures, and surgical assisting.

“Dena Reynolds has been very helpful during her time here,” says Dr. Butler. “She is eager to help, but also carefully follows hospital policy. She’s very curious about the why/what/when of a test or procedure that she may have to perform as a tech. She is very friendly and out-going with me, other staff, and clients. Animals respond well to her voice and handling. She offers helpful suggestions on behavior techniques to calm nervous/frightened animals. It’s been a pleasure to have her, and I believe will do well as a certified, registered tech someday.”

Reynolds says she was inspired by the instructors and staff at MSC. The support of her family and friends that was essential to her completion of her degree.

“I love my parents for all their support,” she says. “My mom has even stayed up countless nights helping me study. I am so thankful to have such wonderful parents in my life.”

Reynolds will be working with Dr. Butler until July 11. She says it will be a sad day when she has to say good-bye.

“My externship has been amazing so far,” she says. “Dr. Butler has constantly asked me questions about Veterinary Medicine and has made my experience so much fun. I am so thankful to him and his staff for giving me the opportunity to learn.”

As far as her future, her time observing surgeries has inspired her to continue her education.

“I have decided to apply to medical school and become a surgeon. I am going to work in a clinic while attending medical school.”

For more on the Murray State College Veterinary Technology Program, visit www.mscok.edu.