MSC Veterinary Technology Student begins externship at Atoka Veterinary Clinic

Residents of Atoka, Oklahoma will be seeing a new face around town. Halli Keeling from Tupelo, a student in Murray State College’s Veterinary Technology Program, has started her externship at Atoka Veterinary Clinic. 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. Shannon Martin and the clinic staff, Keeling is getting hands on training in the care and handling of animals.

“Halli is doing very well in her externship with us, say Dr. Martin. “The Veterinary Technician program has done an excellent job of giving her the skills and knowledge to be a good veterinary technician. She is caring and compassionate with the animals. She also has the ability to work at a busy pace while making sure all of the animal patients are taking care. She walks in every day with a smile on her face and a good attitude and we are very proud of her and the Veterinary Technician Program at Murray State College.”

Keeling says the support from her family, including her parents Donna and Olen Keeling, has been essential to her completion of Murray State College’s Veterinary Technician program. She also includes her brothers and sister, brother- and sister-in-law, and her nephew as big parts of her support system.

“These are people who have been there for me and encouraged me along my journey to find what I wanted to do with my life, and continue to encourage me to become whatever I want to be and achieve all that I want to achieve,” she says. “I think you could probably ask anyone who knows me and they would all be able to tell you about my great love for animals of all types.”

Also included in that support system are her instructors in the MSC Veterinary Technology Program. Now she counts her co-workers at the Atoka Veterinary Clinic in that group as well.

“I learned more than I ever realized I was learning [at Murray State College],” says Keeling. “I feel the MSC staff all helped to prepare me not only with technical skills, but ethics, professionalism, and business skills. They are a great group of ladies. Now once again I have been blessed with being around a great group of people willing to help me grow in this profession. God continues to bless me.”

As for her future, Keeling will be working at the Atoka Veterinary Clinic until July 11. She plans to marry her fiancé, Cody Jackson, this November. After that, she hopes to complete a bachelor’s degree.

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