**Wilson native begins externship for Veterinary Technology Program**

Residents of Ardmore, Oklahoma will be seeing a new face around town. Johnna DeFoor from Wilson, a student in Murray State College’s Veterinary Technology Program, has started her externship at Ardmore Animal Hospital. 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. Tyla Yauk and the rest of the Ardmore Animal Hospital staff, DeFoor is getting hands on training in the care and handling of animals. Yauk agrees with Reed on the value of externships for students.

“Externships are really the only way to get them prepared for the ‘real world’ clinical setting while under the veil of learning. I think it makes the students more valuable at graduation,” says Yauk. “Johnna is showing great progress here at Ardmore Animal Hospital. She has grown leaps and bounds during her externship from where she started.”

DeFoor will officially graduate from the MSC Veterinary Technology program this summer after the completion of her externship. She will be working at the Ardmore Animal Hospital until July 11. Yauk says she has appreciated having DeFoor as a member of the team.

“She truly cares for her patients and the interests of the clients she interacts with,” says Yauk. “She has been a valuable member to our team while she's been here. MSC has provided her with great clinical and technical skills needed to excel in a veterinary clinic.”

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