Colwich native begins externship for Veterinary Technology Program

Residents of Wichita, Kansas will be seeing a new face around town. Kaitlyn Pletcher, from Colwich, a student in Murray State College’s Veterinary Technology Program, has started her externship at the Sedgwick County Zoo. 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.”

Pletcher, a 2011 graduate of Andale High School, is the daughter of Shaun and Terri Pletcher of Colwich. Her grandparents are Alvin and Irene Merrill, also of Colwich, and Jack and Myrna Pletcher of Ardmore, Oklahoma. Pletcher traveled to Tishomingo, Oklahoma to attend the Murray State College Veterinary Technology Program.

“I enjoy helping animals whether they are sick or just in for a routine visit,” she says. “They have always been my interest along with learning about the medical side of the veterinary world. The MSC instructors did a wonderful job preparing me for my externship.”

Under the guidance of Dr. Sandy Wilson and the Sedgwick County Zoo staff, Pletcher is getting hands on training in the care and handling of animals.

“She continues to do very well,” says Dr. Wilson. “She is well-prepared, professional at all times, and a pleasure to work with. She enjoys the variety of experiences provided by the zoo environment, and meets the challenges presented to her with a level of confidence appropriate for a new graduate. Her ability to get along well and learn from all members of the staff will help her be successful as a veterinary technician.”

As far as her future, Pletcher will be working at the Sedgwick County Zoo until July 11. After that she says she will begin to search for the right job at the right clinic.

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