MSC Veterinary Technology students hard at work in summer externships

Summer externships are underway for the second-year students in Murray State College’s Veterinary Technology Program. The eleven students are working throughout the area, getting hands-on training in their new careers. The externship is an 8 week-long program that is designed to give the students real-world experience before they head out into the workforce. It is also a requirement for graduation of 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.”

The students are working in clinics in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Kentucky. Sulphur, Oklahoma native Kristen Baker is spending her externship with Dr. Calvin White and the staff at the Ada Veterinary Clinic.

“My externship is going great and I am learning a lot from Dr. White,” says Baker. “I have always known I would have a career working with animals and my desire to help them and heal them lead me to this profession.”

Tupelo native, Halli Keeling, also says she’s also learning new skills at Atoka Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Shannon Martin says Keeling is doing well in her externship.

“The Veterinary Technician program has done an excellent job of giving her the skills and knowledge to be a good veterinary technician,” says Dr. Martin. “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.”

Byng High School graduate Taylor Smith says becoming a veterinary technician was the perfect career choice for her. She plans to continue her education and specialize in small animal anesthesia.

All three ladies say their support systems of family and friends helped them to complete the Veterinary Technology program. They also say the instructors and staff at the College were a big help.

“My teachers taught me everything I needed to know and guided me when I needed the help,” Baker says. “I also believe they will continue to help me learn and guide me when I ask for help or advice.”

Keeling agrees. “I feel that [the MSC Veterinary Technology staff] helped to prepare me not only with technical skills, but ethics, professionalism, and business skills.”

The students and their externship locations are: Kristen Baker from Sulphur, Oklahoma - Ada Veterinary Clinic in Ada, Oklahoma; Cara Calvert from Jones, Oklahoma – All Pets Medical Center in Altus, Oklahoma; Codi Critchlow from Rattan, Oklahoma – Boswell Animal Kare in Boswell, Oklahoma; Rebecca Daniel from Foster, Oklahoma – Equine Medical Associates in Lexington, Kentucky; Johnna DeFoor from Wilson, Oklahoma – Ardmore Animal Hospital in Ardmore, Oklahoma; Halli Keeling from Tupelo, Oklahoma – Atoka Veterinary Clinic in Atoka, Oklahoma; Jillian Morris from Marlow, Oklahoma – Osage Animal Hospital in Duncan, Oklahoma; Kaitlyn Pletcher from Colwich, Kansas – Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita,
Kansas; Dena Reynolds from Sherman, Texas – Best Friends Animal Hospital in Denison, Texas; Taylor Smith from Ada, Oklahoma – Animal Health Services in Ada, Oklahoma; and Dawn Tarves from Stratford, Oklahoma – Walnut Creek Veterinary Clinic in Purcell, Oklahoma.

The externships end on July 11.

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