

Externship at USDA/APHIS Headquarters in Riverdale, Maryland

National Center for Animal
Health Emergency
Management

Why do an externship?

- To take advantage of opportunities to learn about aspects of veterinary medicine you find interesting
- For me, it was a way to include public health experience in my clinical rotations
- It is a great way to learn as much as possible in a short period of time

NCAHEM Externship

- Work in an office environment as part of a team of NCAHEM veterinarians and support personnel on issues related to highly contagious FAD preparedness/response and agriculture homeland security issues
- The NCAHEM student coordinator may assign projects that may require the student to research, organize, analyze, and present data
- The student may assist with the development of FAD or emergency management training materials, or may be assigned to another APHIS staff working collaboratively with NCAHEM

Why did I choose this externship?

- An exciting opportunity to work closely with veterinarians on topics I am interested in
- It seemed like a great place to get a broad idea of the opportunities for veterinarians at USDA

Riverdale,
Maryland



My externship experience

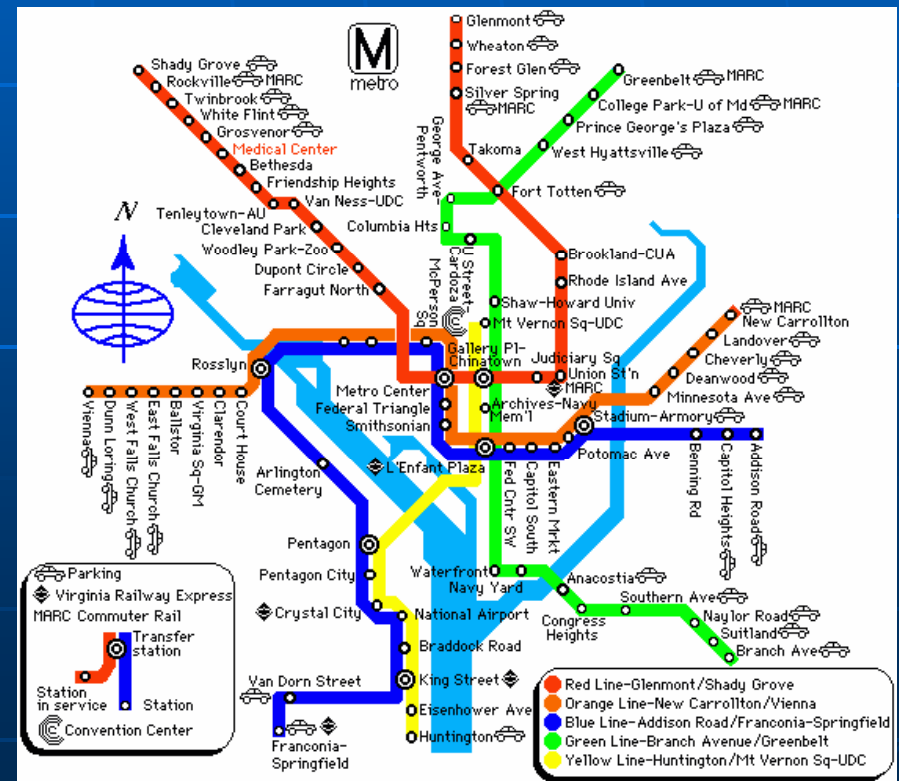
- Worked with the student coordinator to individualize my experience there
 - Worked on an individual project
 - Met with USDA veterinarians in Riverdale, MD
 - Met public health veterinarians in other agencies around the district
 - Attended conferences
 - Met other students also interested in public health and other aspects of veterinary medicine

Time spent at my desk...

- Individual project:
 - Short project regarding the definition of backyard and organic poultry operations and implications on biosecurity
 - Learned to work with databases available at government libraries for my research
 - Put together a literature review to get an overview of the topic

My adventures around Washington, D.C.

- A great part of the experience was getting to talk to veterinarians around Washington, D.C. about what they do
- USDA
 - Veterinary Services
 - PPQ
 - Animal Care
 - Emergency Management
 - International Services
 - FSIS
- AVMA
- NIH
- FDA
- OSTP



APHIS Administrator

Civil Rights Enforcement
& Compliance Staff

Office of Emergency
Management
& Homeland Security

Animal Care

Biotechnology Regulatory Services

International Services

Plant Protection & Quarantine

Veterinary Services

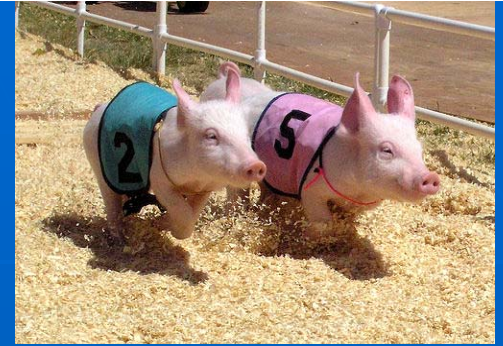
Wildlife Services

Legislative and Public Affairs

MRP Business Services

Policy and Program Development

Traveling and Meetings



- USDA, South Building
 - Met with Dr. John Shaw to learn about International Services
 - Met with members of the Avian Influenza Coordination Group
- Food Safety and Inspection Service
 - Met with Dr. Alice Thaler
- Animal Care
 - Traveled with Dr. Gloria McFadden to a state fair
 - Learned about the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act and USDA's role
 - Was able to see what an unannounced premise inspection entails

American Veterinary Medical Association

- Governmental Relations Division
 - Advocates the Association's policies and positions on federal legislative and regulatory issues that influence animal and human health and advance the veterinary medical profession.
 - National Veterinary Medical Service Act
 - The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act
 - AVMA Student Externship Program
 - Four-week externships at the AVMA's Washington D.C. office experiencing the interaction between public policy-making and veterinary medicine

Meeting other veterinary students

- Summer Veterinary Student Research Program
 - Attended meetings set up by the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine for the students in the research program
 - NIH
 - FDA – Center for Veterinary Medicine
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President
- Also met with veterinary student interns and externs in the Washington D.C. area

AAVMC Conference - Veterinarians in Biomedical Research: *Building National Capacity*



- Addressed the issue of a growing national need for veterinarians in biomedical research
- Organized to bring veterinarians, students, researchers to discuss the factors that currently attract or inhibit veterinarians from joining the field of biomedical research
- Attendees were able to hear different perspectives regarding the role of veterinarians in research
- Participated in a number of panel sessions to discuss what factors attract or discourage veterinarians from research careers and come up with ideas to change current issues
- Emphasized the "One Medicine" concept



Lessons learned...

- There are a great number of opportunities as a student to learn about veterinary public health
- It is very important to take advantage of every opportunity you have to meet people in your field and learn from them (do not lose their business card)
- The resources are available for research and to make a difference, you just have to go for it
- Your experience at an externship is what YOU make of it

Questions?