

Capstone Experience

Christopher Margrey

Experience Logistics

- Veterinary Assistant Internship (Paid)
- Airport Animal Clinic
- Charlottesville, VA
- 25-35 hours per week

Responsibilities

- Restrain animals
- Monitor vital signs during surgery
- Provide information to clients on medications, vaccines, and preventatives
- Communicate on behalf of the veterinarians

Advice

“Do what you enjoy and fully commit to it. This experience will be whatever you make of it, and it has helped me in a variety of classes that I did not expect it to be useful in. You never know when your experiences will come in handy.”

Capstone Project Summary

My project was to research a tick-borne disease called ehrlichiosis, (prevalent in central Virginia), write a research essay, and create a brochure based on my research. The brochure provided new information on the disease for the practice’s veterinarians as well as their clients.

I gathered information from a variety of online resources, but since my experience took place during the peak tick months of the Summer, I was able to see ehrlichiosis tests first hand, as well as talk with the veterinarians about their personal experiences dealing with the disease. Doing so allowed me to learn more about ehrlichiosis than I would have from reading about it in a textbook.

By the time I finished the project, I had learned a lot about ehrlichiosis, the immune responses of canines, and tick-borne diseases as a whole. This project also helped me to connect with the veterinarians I worked for in a very professional manner and gave me some good advice to move forward with as a student

Sarah Taylor

Experience Logistics

- Zookeeper Internship (Paid)
- Roer's Zoo in Northern VA
- 40-hour work weeks

Responsibilities

- Exhibit maintenance
- Animal feed formulations and diet preparations
- Basic animal husbandry
- Running daily animal encounters with zoo guests
- Overseeing public and animal interactions
- Assisting in routine animal treatments
- Assisting in enriching development and implementation

Advice

"Establishing good relationships during the experiences can play a big factor in future opportunities and successes."

Capstone Project Summary

My project focused on creating a series of promotional videos for the zoo to use for promotional/informational purposes as a way to excite new guests and allow them to see what the zoo had to offer the local community.

With the recent change in ownership at this zoo, I thought it would be a great opportunity to help them establish a positive relationship with the local community.

I collected and edited footage of activities, animals, and guests using professional video making software. I made four videos total, and they can all be viewed on the Roer's Zoofari YouTube channel. Each video covered a specific service the zoo had to offer.

Lauren Phillips

Experience Logistics

- Wrangler Internship (Paid)
- Sombrero Ranches in Estes Park, CO
- 6am-6pm, 6 days a week

Responsibilities

- Daily feeding
- Herd Health management
- Leading trail rides for all types of guests
- Overall farm maintenance
- Equine first aid

Advice

“Go out of your comfort zone and explore the world. Don’t just do it at your local vet, really search for an amazing one of a kind experience because once you graduate, these experiences are hard to come by.”

Capstone Project Summary

My project focused on creating an electronic trail guide for new wranglers that included emergency contacts, an introduction to guests, FAQs, pictures of important locations on the trail, and a step-by-step route guide.

This electronic trail guide was important to this operation because it lessened the amount of time new wranglers needed to learn trails and be comfortable with holding conversation with strangers from 2 to 8 hours.

I collected data through a mapping app on my phone and researched The Rocky Mountain National Park through Park Services and the public library. I made my electronic trail guide into a user-friendly app that can be downloaded with a provided link to your phone.



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