Enclosed is a description for a proposed externship opportunity at our clinic. Unfortunately, we do not offer a stipend. Housing arrangements can occasionally be made on inquiry, or I would be happy to provide numbers for local motels.

**Externship Purpose:**
AAVEC is a very busy 24 hour emergency practice that also provides critical care for patients of the referral practices with whom we share the hospital. These practices include referral surgery, internal medicine (including oncology), cardiology, ophthalmology, and dentistry. The externship is primarily an emergency/critical care internship; however, if time permits, occasionally some observation time can be arranged with the specialty practices. Our clinicians have long-term experience in progressive emergency medicine. In addition to cats and dogs we also provide emergency care for common exotic pets such as pet birds, reptiles, ferrets and "pocket pets". We have a very well-trained support staff including certified technicians.
We perform many of our own abdominal surgeries and have a high surgical caseload, but have the added benefit of a board certified specialist on call at all times. Externs should expect to see a wide variety of surgeries including GDV's, foreign body obstructions, hemabdomens and traumatic injuries. Other common procedures include ultrasound, thoracocentesis, pericardiocentesis, feeding tube placement, blood product administration and pain management techniques. Records are computerized and we are a near-paperless practice. Students interested in applying for an internship with us are strongly encouraged to pursue an externship. We are usually very flexible with dates. More information about our practice can be found under our internship posting on the VIRMP website: www.virmp.org.

**Extern Responsibilities:**
We are I think very "hands on" compared to many practices - after a few days we either have students go into rooms with us, and then typically if the student proves to be good enough caliber we'll have them go in, take a history and PE and expect them to formulate a plan - we will then go back in with them and repeat PE. We usually have them scrub in to surgeries, will often have them close with supervision. We will sometimes let them do minor procedures with observation. Our feedback has generally been very good from students that have spent time with us, and many have chosen to do internships with us.

**How to Request Externship Opportunity:**
Interested students should contact Mary Rawlings, DVM at the included contact information. Email is often the most consistent route of contact due to my irregular working hours. Please tell us a little about yourself, what you are hoping to get out of the externship experience, and proposed dates of stay and arrival. We have had many students over the years, mainly from Virginia Tech, most choose to stay 1-3 weeks.
Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours truly,

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