

Dear Student,

The following pages are provided to assist you in meeting the in-hospital requirements for the VT100 - Intro to Veterinary Technology course.

You are required to accumulate a **minimum** of 20 hours of observation experience at a local veterinary hospital/clinic of your choice. It can be a small animal or large animal hospital. It **should** be a hospital that employs veterinary technicians because part of your assignment is to discuss the VT profession with technicians who are currently employed in the field. If they don't employ technicians, you can probably get most of your information from one of the doctors. If you don't know where to go, I would suggest that you start with your own veterinarian (if you own animals) since they already know you and are probably more willing to help you with your assigned task. If you don't usually use the services of a veterinarian then start with the practices that are relatively close to where you live and just stop in and ask.

The first page is an introductory letter to the doctor explaining why you have come to them asking for this experience. Read it, so you understand it also. Fill in your name and the name of your high school.

The second and third pages are the tasks that you are required to observe and/or discuss. You don't have to see all of them but you should have no trouble seeing 90% of what is listed. Remember, these tasks are to be observed and/or discussed and you are not in any way required to participate in performing these tasks. Some hospitals **may** allow you to participate, but others will not, due to insurance liability concerns.

The last page is a list of questions that you need to answer by writing short, essay-type answers on your own paper then submit your answers to me with the completed task list. If you have specific questions, feel free to contact me at 253-964-6665 or you can send me an e-mail at [shurtado@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:shurtado@pierce.ctc.edu)

Dr. Salvador Hurtado, Director  
Veterinary Technology Program

Dear Doctor,

The purpose of this letter is to introduce \_\_\_\_\_ who is a student at \_\_\_\_\_ High School and is currently participating in the “dual credit” program. In this program, high school students receive college credits for completing the equivalent college course work while still in high school. This student is satisfying course requirements for the Pierce College course VT 100 - Introduction to Veterinary Technology.

As an introduction into the veterinary medical profession, the student is required to spend a minimum of 20 hours observing how veterinary medicine is conducted in a private practice setting. The intent of this exposure is to allow the student to “job shadow” you, your associate(s) and/or your registered veterinary technician(s). The student has been provided with a list of tasks to observe and will be asking you to check off those tasks after they were observed. Be aware that neither the student nor the school carries any insurance coverage during this observation time. The student is not required to “perform” any of the tasks but only to observe them. Additionally, the student is asked to discuss some topics with you and/or your staff about veterinary medicine in general and about veterinary technology specifically.

Thank you for your cooperation in this academic endeavor. With the proper exposure to the profession, many of these students may go on to pursue veterinary medicine or veterinary technology as their intended profession. Your help is appreciated in identifying those students who appear eager to follow this career path.

Sincerely,

Dr. Salvador Hurtado, Director  
Pierce College Veterinary Technology Program

# TASK OBSERVATION FORM

Check off the tasks once they have been observed. Not all tasks are required, but **at least 90%** of these tasks must be observed.

## NURSING

- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe daily animal care (i.e. cage/run/stall cleaning, exercising, feeding)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe daily treatments of hospitalized patients (i.e. rounds, patient orders)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe administration of meds via the oral, injectable **and** intravenous routes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe physical examination
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe client interaction (i.e. history taking, behavior or nutrition counseling)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe emergency triage
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe/Discuss euthanasia
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss the diagnostic points of a radiograph and/or observe ultrasonography  
**(NOTE: DO NOT expose student to radiation under any circumstances!)**

## SURGERY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe major surgery (i.e. open abdominal surgery, orthopedic surgery)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe minor surgery (i.e. draining abscess, debriding traumatic wound)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe dental prophylaxis
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss operation of a gas anesthesia machine
- \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss equipment sterilization and aseptic technique

## **LABORATORY**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe external/internal parasites or their ova on an animal or under the microscope
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe blood cells and/or urine sediment under a microscope
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe in-house blood testing (i.e. serum chemistry, FeLV/FIV, heartworm)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe intravenous blood draw

## **FRONT OFFICE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe telephone procedures
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe making appointments
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe record keeping
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observe dispensing prescription and/or over-the-counter medications

I attest that a minimum of 20 hours was logged by this student while observing these tasks at this hospital/clinic.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinarian's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# DISCUSSION TOPICS

Write some short essay answers after discussing these topics with the veterinarian(s) and/or technician(s) at your observation site. Write your answers on your own paper and include them with the task observation form. These answers will be evaluated for their content and for your writing ability (grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, etc.).

1. What amount of pay can I expect as a registered veterinary technician?
2. What are considered to be normal working hours for a veterinary technician?
3. What benefits usually accompany a job in private practice?
4. List other potential employment situations, in addition to private practice.
5. List some positive aspects of being a licensed veterinary technician.
6. List some negative aspects of being a licensed veterinary technician.
7. Describe your past animal-related experiences and discuss what you have done to prepare yourself for a career as a veterinary technician.