

Limited Clinical Year Externship Program

The Office of Academic Affairs is reaching out to the Tufts University Veterinary Alumni Association (TUVAA) in these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic to ask for your help. We are planning on bringing our students back into our hospitals on June 8 or shortly thereafter and we plan follow detailed safety protocols and distancing practices to minimize COVID-19 risks to students, personnel, and clients. At the same time, we will also initiate a limited externship program.

There is so much that veterinarians outside of the school teach students on externships and with the new [Competency Based Veterinary Medical Education \(CBVE\) framework](#), we recognize that the competencies listed below are major components of clinical externships.

1. Clinical Reasoning and Decision-making
2. Individual Animal Care and Management
5. Communication
6. Collaboration
7. Professionalism and Professional Identity
8. Financial and Practice Management

We ask TUVAA members to consider offering externships at this time because our students are eager for hands-on experience after being online since March. If members agree to offer an externship, we will ask them to complete a form detailing the COVID-19 safety protocols at their practice. An email can be sent to CummingsElectives@tufts.edu to request the form. Sites will then be pre-approved and V21 students will contact the practice directly to schedule their externship. Some TUVAA members may have already been approached by students and if the form has been submitted, it is not necessary to complete it again.

Thank you for considering this request and we hope that everyone in the TUVAA remains safe and well.

Email from TUVAA:

The Office of Academic Affairs has contacted the Tufts University Veterinary Alumni Association (TUVAA) to ask for our help with placing students in externship sites as the school begins clinical rotations again on June 8. Externships provide students with unique experiences and reinforce the clinical competencies that are emphasized in veterinary medical education, and the school hopes to initiate a limited externship program. All TUVAA members are invited to offer externships to final year students and for the first stage of the program, practices within daily driving distance of the veterinary school are preferred. The safety of everyone involved in externships is of the highest importance at this time so the school will ask you to complete a form regarding COVID-19 safety protocols to pre-approve your practice. Please email CummingsElectives@tufts.edu to request a form. The school will review the form to ensure that your practice protocols are in alignment with their requirements and then your practice will be added to a list of pre-approved externship sites provided to the students, who will contact you directly to schedule their externships. Thank you for your help.