The Penn Vet Working Dog Center serves as a national research and training center for detection dogs. They are trained to find victims of disasters, detect explosives and drugs, apprehend criminals, and conduct search & rescue missions. Some dogs are even trained in medical detection, including cancer and infection. Penn Vet Working Dog Center makes a difference in our national security and medical research. These dogs literally save lives!

The Penn Vet Working Dog Center is excited to offer Internships to all college students including those seeking academic credit within the guidelines of their academic institution. Limited high school internships are also available. Internships are available in, but not exclusive to, the areas of dog training, behavioral science, psychology, law enforcement, bio-med, research, database management, and non-profit management. Please note, this is an unpaid internship. An emphasis on research is integral to each of these areas.

Our internship program is designed for students with a serious interest in working dogs to gain practical experience while helping the Penn Vet Working Dog Center achieve their mission of developing a detection dog breeding and training program that will implement, test, and disseminate the knowledge gained.

[If you are a veterinary student, read more about our externship opportunities HERE.]

The Penn Vet Working Dog Center is located at: Pennovation Works (South Bank Campus), 3401 Grays Ferry Avenue, Building 6179, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19146.

Housing and transportation are the responsibility of the student.

Internships are available during the school year (intersession) and over the summer.

What you can expect:
- Daily hands-on interaction with working dogs in training
- Opportunity to learn about dog training and scientific research
- Daily guidance from trainers and veterinary staff when available
- Help maintain the well-being of our dogs and their training environment
- Some internship positions may require rigorous activity

Intersession Internships

Requirements:
1. 12-week commitment; modifications can be discussed during interview
2. 12 hours per week minimum
3. Unpaid position
4. Completion of project/research summary (if required by your institution)
5. 18+ years of age
6. Attendance and punctuality
7. Adherence to dress code: long pants, closed-toed shoes, long-sleeve shirt, work gloves, treat bag, clicker
8. Flexibility and willingness to learn

**Application Deadline:**
Intersession Internships – rolling admission

**Application Process:**
Email your resume, cover letter, availability, and one letter of reference to Dr. Judith Berke, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator at berkej@upenn.edu. For additional information visit our website www.vet.upenn.edu/working-dog-center or call Dr. Berke at 215-898-2200.

**Summer Internships**

We offer two types of summer internships.

1. **Research - Behavioral Science**
   Interns will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in research, including:
   - Environmental testing – dogs’ reaction to their environment (living & inanimate)
   - Analyzing how the dogs develop and progress through training
   - Data collection on various research studies
   - Data organization and analysis
   - Responsibilities include working with multiple databases, data collection and management, data analysis (e.g. biostatistics, modelling and hands-on behavioral testing with working dogs).
   - Interns will also see how we can use the dog’s nose to develop an early diagnostic test for the detection of ovarian cancer.

2. **Applied - Behavioral Science**
   Interns in this track will gain experience in behavioral analysis techniques. Interns will investigate the role behavior plays in affecting the success of working dogs across the canine career paths including:
   - Daily, hands-on interaction with working dogs in training
   - Opportunity to learn about dog training, veterinary medicine, and scientific research
   - Guidance from trainers and veterinary staff on operant and classical conditioning, positive reinforcement, basic dog training, canine behavior & body language, scent detection (i.e., search & rescue, law enforcement & medical), puppy development & socialization and fitness programs for canines.
   - Data collection for research & training
   - Responsibilities include supporting the research and training of the trainers, collect data and video tape training sessions and assisting with canine management through operant conditioning and positive reinforcement

**Requirements:**
1. June 1 – August 15
2. 9:00am – 4:00pm, Monday thru Friday
3. Unpaid position
4. Completion of project/research summary (if required by your institution)
5. 18+ years of age
6. Attendance and punctuality
7. Adherence to dress code: long pants, closed-toed shoes, long-sleeve shirt, work gloves, treat bag, clicker
8. Flexibility and willingness to learn
9. $25 application fee
Application Deadline:
Current application cycle information available on our website.

Application Process:
- Complete the online application available HERE. Summer internship application fee is $25.
- Interviews are ideally conducted in person; however, video conferencing options are available.

For additional information or questions, contact Dr. Judith Berke, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator at berkej@upenn.edu or 215-898-2200.