

Tufts at Tech Volunteer Feedback

During the summer before my senior year of high school, I volunteered a few days a week at the Tufts at Tech animal clinic. The school I attend, Blackstone Valley Tech (BVT), does not have a vet tech program, so when I found out about the chance to volunteer at Tufts at Tech I was more than excited. While volunteering, I was able to sit in on lectures with the third and fourth year veterinary students, take the history on the patients, run blood work, and assist the vet students with tasks such as holding the animals while they take blood or give vaccines. Before sitting through the first lecture, I thought that I was going to be confused by what they were talking about. I soon discovered however that I knew a lot of the vocabulary and medications they use because of my experience in Health Services at BVT.



Alexa Gomes during a shift at the Tufts at Tech Animal Care Center

At first I was also nervous taking the history on the patients because I didn't know what questions I needed to ask. After going on a few runs with other staff and hearing the feedback from the vet students, I got more comfortable and was able to ask questions that I knew the vet students would want the answers to. I was also able to run blood work which was pretty interesting.

The machines were all new to me, but after figuring out how to use them it became fun to run all the tests and see the different results for each animal.

Doing the hands on work with the animals was the most fun for me. I loved being able to work directly with the animals and assist the vet students. Doing hands on work really taught me a lot. I learned how to restrain animals, look for signs that show that the animal doesn't like something, learn how to adjust plans based on what the animal would tolerate, and so much more. I was exposed to a typical day of a veterinarian (or vet student), and I saw the realistic side of veterinary medicine, not just the glorious side that everyone thinks it is. Overall this experience taught me a lot and further confirmed my interest in veterinary medicine.

-- Alexa Gomes