## Hello soon to be DVMs!

I'm writing you to let you know of an opportunity that is being developed with Drs. Arleigh Reynolds and Laurie Meythaler Mullins in Alaska. This is a year-long One Health Veterinary Internship, set to start in June 2022. While we do not have a full position description and application process available just yet, we are working hard to have it ready for you as soon as we can since know this is a critical time for you to be planning your futures in internships, jobs and life beyond veterinary school! This program will be associated with the HOP Outreach program.

We are excited to offer this program as a way to gain advanced skills in providing care in rural communities and understanding and engaging with communities. We are emailing you as we think this could align with your interests as DVM/MPH students or student who participated in the UAF program.

## Program Description:

The One Health Veterinary Intern (OHVI) position will be located in Bethel, Alaska, and Dr Meythaler Mullins will directly oversee the intern. For the first two months of the OHVI, the intern will work directly alongside the COPHV. The intern will then be required to complete an educational rotation at the CSU VTH and an additional rotation with another surgical program, these training experiences will provide additional opportunities for surgical skill and development. The OHVI is an important piece in the long-term goal to relieve the veterinary shortage situation in this and other regions with the OHVI serving as a potential feeder program to these underserved communities.

- The curriculum of the internship will include study of the following topics: veterinary
  preventive medicine and surgical skill building; One Health; Public Health; Access to
  Veterinary Care concepts; Success and Career opportunities in Rural Veterinary
  Medicine;
- This position will have opportunities to develop skills critical to rural work in underserved communities including:
  - Leading and creating community engagement and education events,
  - o Organizing and leading veterinary team travel to remote communities
  - Teaching students of various levels from grade school to DVM
  - Building and managing organizational and community relationships
  - Grant writing and development of leadership skills

## Colorado State University Hub Outpost Project (HOP) in Rural Alaska

In 2017, Drs. Arleigh Reynolds of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF) and Danielle Frey of Colorado State University (CSU) created a program addressing canine overpopulation in rural Alaska. The program, headquartered in Bethel, Alaska, provides service to the surrounding villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim (YK) Delta and capitalizes on Dr. Reynolds' regional expertise with dogs in Alaska and Dr. Frey's knowledge of working with communities experiencing barriers to veterinary care. Upon receiving funding from founding partner PetSmart Charities (PSC), the program officially commenced, and Dr. Laurie Meythaler-Mullins became the

Community Outreach and Public Health Veterinarian (COPHV) responsible for coordinating the project and providing the veterinary services for the program in the YK Delta.

Dedicated to providing preventive veterinary care for companion animals in the YK Delta of Alaska, the HOP team works with owners who may be experiencing financial and geographical barriers to veterinary care for their pets. Villages in the YK Delta are remote and off the road system, creating additional challenges for veterinarians trying to access the communities and for the transportation of animals to Bethel for veterinary care. The HOP program provides veterinary care to nearly 50 rural communities by traveling via small plane or boat to reach isolated people and animals.

The HOP team provides judgment-free care and supports the health of communities through the health of the animals by controlling transmission of zoonotic disease through vaccination and parasite treatments, and population management through spay/neuter surgery. Additionally, this program engages veterinary students interested in accessible veterinary care and rural medicine.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Dr. Meythaler-Mullins or Dr. Reynolds with further questions and to let us know if you would like additional information and/or are considering applying or if know someone who would like to consider this opportunity.

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