

# Veterinary Observation

## Suggestions for Obtaining Your Hours

- Contact the facility by phone or preferably in person to schedule an appointment.
- Clearly identify yourself as a student applying to the PCC Veterinary Technology program. Emphasize that the observation is required to be considered for admission to the program, and that you are interested in a professional career in a veterinary setting.
- Speak with the Lead Veterinary Technician, the Hospital Owner, or the Practice Manager to arrange your on-site hours.
- Bring the Observation Form Letter and form with you for the veterinarian and staff to review at your observation appointment.
- Use more than one Veterinary Observation form if you observe at more than one location.
- Remember, the veterinarian and staff of the facility are helping you. Please be considerate of their time and policies while in their facility. Some hospitals and clinics will only let you observe, without any actual hands-on experience with the patients due to legal/insurance issues.
- At the site, try to focus on the job duties being performed by the Certified Veterinary Technician. Ask yourself: “Are these the responsibilities that I would like to have, are these tasks that I would enjoy doing?”
- If you are currently employed as a veterinary assistant, your previous work experience will fulfill this direct observation requirement but the Veterinary Observation Form must still be completed and submitted with your application.

# Veterinary Observation Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

The Portland Community College Veterinary Technology program requires all applicants to observe at least 40 hours in a veterinary clinical setting in order to be eligible for admission to the program. The purpose of these hours is to introduce the applicant to the Veterinary Technology profession, and to allow the applicant to observe the activities of veterinary hospitals to help them decide if this is the occupational training they desire.

We respectfully request that you allow these students to observe 40 hours in your hospital. If the prospective applicant is currently or formerly an employee of yours and has met the requirements for observation and discussion listed on the attached "Veterinary Observation Form", then simply fill out the form and return it to the applicant.

We greatly appreciate any effort you make to accommodate these requests for observation. Both the program's faculty and our advisory committee feel this experience will be extremely valuable for the applicants and will, ultimately, strengthen our program and profession.

Sincerely,

Ragan Borzcik, DVM  
Faculty Department Chair  
Veterinary Technology Program  
Portland Community College

## Veterinary Observation Form

CVT/DVM Initial When Complete	Tasks to be Observed
	Minor surgical procedures (e.g. abscess drainage)
	Major surgical procedures (e.g. ovariohysterectomy)
	Office procedures (e.g. daily cash chart)
	Client interaction (e.g. history taking, discharge instructions)
	Kennel or stall clean-up (e.g. cage clean-up)
	Animal Medicating: (e.g. pilling and/or injecting a cat)
	Euthanasia, if possible (not an absolute requirement)
	Instrument clean-up
	Laboratory work such as looking through a microscope: (e.g. fecal analysis)
	Various other treatment procedures: (e.g. expressing anal sacs, enemas)
	<b>Suggested Topics of Discussion</b>
	Anticipated wages of a Certified Veterinary Technician
	Working hours for Certified Veterinary Technicians
	Employment benefits anticipated, such as paid vacation, health insurance, etc
	Rewards of being a Certified Veterinary Technician
	Challenges associated with being a Certified Veterinary Technician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of DVM or CVT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Total hours

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date