



Externships 2025-2026 Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in Friendship Hospital for Animals (FHA)! Below you will find some information about our externship offerings.

Why should I do an externship at FHA?

FHA is a large, progressive, primary care, emergency, and multi-disciplinary specialty hospital in Washington, DC, providing services for about 105,700 cases per year. We offer externs the opportunity to be exposed to a high caseload in a collaborative environment with veterinarians who are practicing high quality medicine, conducting research, and offering excellent client care. We are dedicated to teaching and occupying a space between private practice and academia, giving you the best of both worlds. We believe that an externship at FHA provides a great opportunity to be exposed to the best that veterinary medicine has to offer!

How do I schedule an externship at FHA?

Current veterinary students can schedule externships at FHA by visiting <https://fhaexterns.youcanbook.me>. Select the service you would like to extern with, choose the Monday of the week(s) you would like to spend with FHA, and then fill out the booking form. You will receive a confirmation email once the request is approved.

What departments offer externships at FHA?

The following veterinary student externships are offered:

- **Behavior Medicine:** This service has one board-certified behaviorist. The externship is typically Monday-Thursday 7am-5pm.
- **Cardiology:** This service has two board-certified cardiologists. The externship is typically Monday through Friday 7:30am-5pm.
- **Dermatology:** This service has two board-certified dermatologists. The externship is typically Monday through Friday 8am-5pm.
- **Diagnostic Imaging:** This service has three board-certified radiologists (two on site and one remote) reading radiographs, CTs, and MRIs as well as performing ultrasounds for the hospital. The externship is typically Monday through Friday 8am-4:30pm.
- **Emergency/Critical Care:** This service has three board-certified criticalists, and one doctor that has completed a residency in E/CC. We have eight additional staff emergency doctors with a busy outpatient and hospitalization service. This externship is typically Monday through Friday 7:30am-5:30pm, however shifted schedules may be requested since this service runs 24/7.
- **Internal Medicine:** This service has three board-certified internists and two specialty interns. This externship is typically Monday through Friday 7:30am-5:30pm.

- **Nephrology/Urology:** This service has three board-certified nephrologists. This externship is typically Monday through Friday 7:30am-5:30pm.
- **Neurology:** This service has two board-certified neurologists. This externship is typically Monday through Friday 7:30am-5pm.
- **Oncology:** This service has two board-certified oncologists. The externship is typically Monday through Friday 8:00am-5:00pm.
- **Ophthalmology:** This service has one board-certified ophthalmologist. This externship is typically Monday through Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm, and Friday 8:00am-12:00pm.
- **Primary Care/General Practice:** This service has 12 general practitioners, including one who is an ABVP Diplomate (Canine & Feline), offering primary care appointments, general surgery, and general dentistry. This externship is typically Monday through Friday 7am-6:30pm.
- **Specialty Surgery, Rehabilitation, and Anesthesia:** This service has two board-certified anesthesiologists, four boarded specialty surgeons, four specialty surgery interns, and a technician who is certified in rehabilitation. The externship is typically Monday through Friday 7am-5pm.

What if I cannot do a full week or have any other special requests?

If you cannot be at FHA for a full week, or you require scheduling accommodations, please use our externship request website and choose the Monday of the week you would like to come (even if you cannot be at FHA on Monday). In the special request section, please indicate the days you would like to spend at FHA during that week. If you have other special requests (arriving late, leaving early, etc), please also indicate those in the special request section. We can typically accommodate special requests.

Is preference given to 3rd or 4th year veterinary students?

Yes. We prioritize third and fourth year veterinary students. However, space permitting, we welcome students from all years.

If I spend a week on one service, will I still get a chance to interact with other services at FHA?

Yes. Our teams work very closely with each other and collaborate to provide the best medicine for our patients. It would be rare for you not to have the chance to interact with multiple services each day that you are at FHA. If you are interested in primarily spending time on one service but would like a little bit of time on another, please just note that in the special request section, and we will attempt to coordinate.

What do I do if I want to spend multiple weeks at FHA?

We would love for you to spend multiple weeks with us, pending space availability. Your time on any single service would be limited to no more than two weeks and your total time at FHA would be limited to 4 weeks to allow us to accommodate as many externs as possible.

Please request your first week through our website. When the confirmation page appears, click on the link to book another week. You will need to fill out your information a second time after selecting your first week. In the special request section, please note that you have requested a previous week and for which service, as it is possible the requests will appear on different calendars.

Is housing offered during the externship?

Unfortunately, FHA does not have housing available for externs. Our 4105 Brandywine location is ½ block from the Tenleytown-American University (red line) metro station. Street parking is available a few blocks from the hospital. Our 5025 Wisconsin location is a ½ mile north of the Brandywine building.

What should I wear and bring?

Please arrive in scrubs and non-slip, closed-toe shoes. If your rotation requires you to spend time in the OR, please also bring clean scrubs to change into and footwear appropriate for the OR. Please bring a name tag.

If you bring a packed lunch, we have a refrigerator and microwaves in the staff lounge, as well as utensils, etc. There are also several walkable carry-out options for purchasing lunch.

How many externs do you take per service at one time and is there direct patient care?

Each department can accommodate up to one extern per week at this time. This is designed to provide a more individualized experience and maximize your exposure to the hospital and department. No direct patient care is involved.

Are there any blackout periods during the year for externships?

We do not accept externs during the month of June when our new rotating interns are overlapping with our outgoing class. There are times when certain departments may not have availability due to major conferences, time off, or other conflicts within the hospital. However, we try to offer as much availability as possible throughout the year.

I am considering a rotating internship through the VIRMP. Will I be able to talk to current interns while there?

Yes! Each service has intern veterinarians rotating through the department. You will likely spend a fair amount of time with an intern being exposed to the services and procedures offered within the area. We encourage you to speak with as many rotating interns as you can while at FHA if you are interested in pursuing our program.

How can I learn more about Friendship?

Below you will find our Mission, Vision, Core Values and Service Standards. To learn more about Friendship, please visit our website at www.friendshiphospital.com, check us out on Twitter @FriendshipHosp or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/friendshiphospital/>.

What are the Mission, Vision, Core Values and Service Standards of Friendship?

Our Mission:

We are a leader in comprehensive animal healthcare that improves the wellbeing of our patients, clients, team members, and community.

Our Vision:

To be the most medically progressive animal hospital in the country while adhering to our core values.

Our Core Values:

The Friendship Family:

- Commits every team member to a clear, shared vision of our future.
- Values personal and professional growth. Shares knowledge with the entire healthcare team.
- Sets and maintains high service and healthcare standards. Holds individuals accountable to those standards.
- Is committed to providing excellent care to our patients, our clients and each other twenty-four hours every day.
- Fosters an environment of loyalty, respect and equality. Recognizes and celebrates the diversity of our clients and our team.
- Is committed to open and honest communication.
- Cultivates a positive environment which is cooperative, supportive, productive, creative and fun.
- Is committed to community service and corporate social responsibility.
- Strives to be a national leader in the veterinary healthcare profession.

Our Service Standards:

In addition to practicing the highest quality, collaborative medicine for our patients, Friendship wants to live up to the highest of levels of service for our clients. In every interaction, Friendship strives to live up to those standards that our clients have come to expect. We have, therefore, set up the FHA CARES Service Standards to guide our decisions and ways in which we interact with our clients.

FHA CARES:

Our clients expect us to be:

- C**ompassionate
- A**ttentive
- R**espectful
- E**xpert
- S**afe