

**Student Information Sheet**  
**PAWS Chicago DVM Extern Shelter Experience**

**Address:**

PAWS Chicago Lurie Family Spay and Neuter Clinic  
3516 W 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL, 60623 (Little Village Neighborhood, 6 blocks from Kedzie)  
Ph: 773-521-7729

**PAWS website** (link to directions is next to photo of building) -  
<http://www.pawschicago.org/spay-neuter-clinic>

**Contacts:**

Dr. Jamieson Nichols – Purdue Maddie’s Post-DVM Fellow in Shelter Medicine  
Dr. Barbara Hanek - PAWS Chicago Shelter Medicine Veterinarian  
Rochelle Michalek – PAWS Chicago Executive Director  
Laura Hinze – PAWS Chicago Director of Operations

**Background:**

During your time at PAWS Chicago you will gain clinical experience in the practice of shelter medicine under the supervision of experienced shelter veterinarians. The experience is designed to give you exposure to the many facets of working in a high volume “Adoption Guarantee” shelter environment. You will gain an understanding of providing a high quality of care in a not for profit environment through the efficient use of resources, business practices, and capacity.

Your time will be spent in two major areas – Shelter Medicine Program in the Rescue and Recovery Center, and the Spay Neuter Clinic, both located at 3516 W 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Objectives:**

To provide students with a complete clinical experience in the practice of shelter medicine under the supervision of experienced shelter veterinarians. Students will actively participate in all aspects of medicine in the shelter environment, including animal intake and admission; client liaison; spay/neuter preparation, anesthesia and surgery; infectious disease management and quarantine in the shelter environment; medical and surgical management of individual shelter animals; and preparation for adoption. By the end of the 3-week elective rotation, the students will have gained insight into how the following subject areas are integrated into the real-life shelter environment

- Small animal medicine on a population and individual basis;
- Infectious disease management & control in a small animal population;
- High volume spay/neuter and vaccination.

**Spay/Neuter Clinic**

PAWS Chicago Lurie Spay/Neuter Clinic is one the largest free or low cost spay/neuter clinic in the country, providing accessible services to those pet owners who are most in need. The Clinic will perform over 17000 surgeries in 2010, averaging over 80 per day. The experience is broken into the following key areas:

- **Surgical Check-Ins & Vaccine Clinic – Responsibilities:** Working with the veterinarian and the clients during the surgical check-in exams and in the vaccine clinic. You will gain experience in working with clients who care about their pets, but in most cases, have limited access to veterinary resources.
- **Surgical Prep – Responsibilities:** Working with the technicians in preparing the animals for surgery. You will be a member of the team responsible for intubation, anesthesia, and other services (vaccinations, micro chipping, etc) that are associated with preparing an animal for surgery and completing the requested medical services. The team is also responsible for ensuring we are able to meet the surgical demands of the day – this includes determining the flow of animals based on the skills of the veterinarians and the mix/type of animals. In a high volume clinic, the communications between the lead veterinarian and the lead tech are critical.
- **Surgery – Responsibilities:** Feline neuters and canine and feline dentals. You will learn about the surgical procedures and processes associated with the clinic and will perform dentals and other surgeries under the supervision of a shelter surgery veterinarian as needed. You will also be working with Dr. Jessica Von Waldau (PAWS Chicago Chief Veterinarian) on special surgical procedures on Friday afternoons.

### **Rescue & Recovery Program**

The PAWS Chicago Rescue & Recovery Center is the starting point for all of the animals that come into the adoption program from Animal Care and Control and our Owner Relinquishment Partnering Program. The average weekly intake is between 75 – 100 felines and canines. The shelter medicine program is critical to ensuring the health and well being of the animal prior to adoption. Every animal tracks through a defined isolation period based on its age and source, and a defined medical protocol. If an animal becomes ill, we provide medical treatment. The intake program consists of all sizes, ages, types, breeds of animals – from kittens & puppies to seniors.

Your Shelter Medicine Program experience will include working in the following areas:

- **Initial Exams – Responsibilities:** Working with the shelter veterinarian on the initial exams performed on the animals. This includes a comprehensive physical exam, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchipping, preventive treatment (fleas, worms), and diagnostic screening (FIV/FelV/heartworm). Based on the initial exam, the animal will be cleared for surgery and/or adoption or if the animal is ill, you will participate in the diagnosis, the treatment plan and the prescription of medication as necessary.
- **Recheck Exams – Responsibilities:** Working with the shelter veterinarian on physical examinations of animals that are on medical hold, clearing them for surgery or prescribing a new course of treatment.
- **Student Triage Shelter Medicine – Responsibilities:** This includes assessing and monitoring animals that are currently on medical isolation, administering their medical care, and identifying any changes in their condition. You will follow up on your assessments with the shelter veterinarian.

During your time in the Shelter Medicine Program, you will gain an understanding of the complexity of disease management in a shelter environment, how to provide high quality medical care, and how to utilize a foster network. You will also gain insight to the business rationale and dynamics behind the processes, protocols, and practices of the PAWS Chicago Lurie Clinic and Rescue & Recovery Center.

Please note, due to the dynamics of a large shelter environment, responsibilities may change based on the needs and the resources of the organization.

**Working Hours:**

You will work at PAWS Chicago (Lurie Family Spay/Neuter Clinic and Rescue and Recovery Center) approximately 50 hours per week, spread over Monday to Friday. Sunday is PAWS' busiest day for spay and neuter surgeries. Participation on Sundays is additional to your externship/off-campus block and is voluntary.

**Liaison:**

While you are at PAWS Chicago you will interact with many clients, veterinarians, surgical technicians, staff and volunteers, but your main liaison people will be the Purdue Maddie's Post-DVM Fellow in Shelter Medicine, Dr. Jamieson Nichols, and the PAWS Chicago Shelter Medicine Veterinarian, Dr. Barbara Hanek. They will help you with understanding the protocols, processes, practices, and procedures associated with the PAWS Chicago Medical Program. This includes the medical program for the spay/neuter customers at the Lurie Clinic and for the felines and canines that are part of the adoption program. They will also be responsible for evaluating your performance. If you need any additional help or advice, or would like to discuss your experience at PAWS, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Annette Litster.

**Accommodation:**

Accommodation at the Purdue Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program apartment in Chicago can be arranged by contacting Dr. Annette Litster. The apartment is not available over the summer.

**Dress Code:**

Dress code is as for clinical rotations at the UF Small Animal Hospital. Scrubs are required for your daily wear. Protective clothing, such as scrubs for use in the PAWS Chicago surgical suite, should be brought with you to PAWS. It is advisable to wear a long sleeved t-shirt under the scrub top to protect your arms from scratches and zoonotic skin infections. Please bring your stethoscope with you. Since photos may be taken while you are at PAWS, we ask you not to wear clothing or name tags that have the UF name on them while you are there.

**Further Information:**

- <http://www.pawschicago.org/spay-neuter-clinic/>
- Ms. Laura Hinze, PAWS Chicago Director of Operations – Email: [lhinze@Pawschicago.org](mailto:lhinze@Pawschicago.org) Phone: 773 475-9430.
- Dr. Annette Litster – Email: [catvet@purdue.edu](mailto:catvet@purdue.edu) Phone: 765-418-3186.