



RMTC Racing Industry Veterinary Student Externship Program

Background:

The success of the racing industry is dependent on the recruitment, availability, and retention of motivated attending and regulatory veterinary professionals to oversee the safety and welfare of its participants. In response, the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) has created a *Racing Industry Veterinary Student Externship Program* to financially support veterinary student's externships with racetrack private practicing and regulatory veterinarians.

The RMTC, a 501(c)(3) scientifically based organization, serves research, educational, and advocacy roles within the horseracing industry providing a unique platform for industry stakeholder collaboration on matters of horseracing safety and integrity. It is governed by a board of directors from 23 racing stakeholder organizations including representatives of Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Quarter Horse and Arabian Horse racing. Tax deductible contributions support research and educational programs. For additional information, visit the RMTC website at rmtcnet.com.

Description:

This externship program is designed to provide prospective veterinarians with exposure to, gain experience in, and develop networking opportunities in equine veterinary medicine within the racing industry. Due to the regulated nature of horseracing and standards of practice for both practicing and regulatory veterinarians working on the racetrack, this experience will be observational with limited hands-on opportunities, however, it provides an optimal environment for students to observe and participate in large diverse caseloads. Students will get an interactive viewpoint of the day-to-day responsibilities of the practicing veterinarian during training hours and while racing which includes the opportunity to observe and discuss progressive diagnostics, including advanced imaging modalities, internal medicine practices, and therapies for the racehorse. Additionally, students will receive one-on-one exposure to the unique responsibilities of racing regulatory veterinarians, which include pre-race, veterinary list, and out-of-competition examinations, training observations, risk assessment strategies, on-track racing duties, and injury management.

Expectations:

The RMTC will provide financial support of up to \$2,000 for veterinary student(s) participating in a racetrack externship. The externship must consist of a 2-week minimum shared experience spending half of the time accompanying a racetrack practice/practicing veterinarian and half of the time with a racing regulatory veterinarian. The RMTC will organize a *pool* of host racetrack practitioners/practices and regulatory veterinarians willing to collaborate with this program. RMTC's externship selection committee will review, rank, and match applicants with host-sites. The externship must be completed within one year of the award date, or graduation. Upon completion, the applicant will be required to complete an exit review of the externship. Students previously awarded this externship will not qualify for subsequent



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program funding, however RMTC is committed to assisting with arranging additional racetrack-specific veterinary student externships.

The applicant must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with that of a veterinary professional. He/she will honor all expectations of confidentiality by each host site. The student should expect up to seven days per week experience unless otherwise arranged with the hosting site. Due to the regulated nature of horseracing, students must receive permission from the hosting veterinarian to have physical contact with or take pictures of any horse on the backside of the racetrack or training center. In the event the externship is not completed, the applicant must provide proof of mitigating circumstance, otherwise funding reimbursement to the RMTC will be required.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: 6 p.m. EST Friday, November 14, 2025

Application review process complete: January 5, 2026

Notification of award: January 12, 2026

Submit applications to doakes@rmtcnet.com