



## 2024 AVMA Government Relations Division Externship Application

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinary Medical College: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Expected Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

SAVMA ID: \_\_\_\_\_ I am a U.S. citizen: \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

How did you learn about the AVMA GRD Externship? \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred time block in 2024:** Externships run for four weeks. Applicants are asked to check their top two choices. Please note that selecting only one choice may limit your options if you are selected for an externship and that date block is filled/unavailable. In 2024, Congress is expected to be in session during these times. Additional time slots will be added as the application deadline approaches.

\_\_\_ February 1-29

\_\_\_ March 4-29

\_\_\_ September 2-27

### My application is complete:

\_\_\_ **Two-page resumé:** CVs **will not** be accepted. Your resumé should include only the most **relevant** information you want AVMA to consider (**strictly limited to two pages, single-sided**).

\_\_\_ **Letter of recommendation** from a veterinarian (professor, mentor, or supervisor) familiar with the student's academic record. Recommendation letters must be submitted in an envelope sealed by the recommender or emailed to the AVMA GRD directly from the recommender. Note: If multiple letters are received for one applicant, only the first letter received will be considered.

\_\_\_ **Personal statement** explaining your motivations to apply to the AVMA GRD Externship program and what you would like to gain from the experience. (**strictly limited to 300 words**)

\_\_\_ **Case study:** Please see page 3 of this application for instructions. (**strictly limited to 500 words**)

**Interest and involvement in Advocacy, Policy and Politics:** Check all that apply. Your answers will provide a context for your interest in and involvement with AVMA's legislative agenda and the political process.

\_\_\_ I have completed a policy-related externship sponsored by:

\_\_\_ the federal / state / local government

\_\_\_ AVMA

\_\_\_ State VMA or allied organization (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I am familiar with the AVMA legislative agenda

\_\_\_ I subscribe to and regularly read the AVMA Advocate

- I subscribe to and am active in the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network (grassroots network)
- I have participated in an AVMA Fly-In
- I have participated in my state VMA's "Hill Day" at my state legislature
- I am registered to vote in U.S. elections and have voted in an election for state or national office
- I have attended a town hall meeting hosted by a candidate for state or federal elected office
- I have contacted an elected state or federal official via phone, email, fax or in-person meeting
- I have volunteered for a candidate for state or federal elected office and/or interned or worked for a federal or state lawmaker

**What areas of policy are you interested in?** Check the box for all that apply.

- Appropriations (federal funding and budget issues)
- Animal Health and Welfare
- Conservation and Environmental Issues
- Food-Related Issues
- One Health
- Pharmaceutical Issues
- Research Issues
- Small Business Issues
- Tax Issues
- Veterinary Professional and Educational Issues
- Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Statement:** In 300 words or less, explain your motivations to apply to the AVMA GRD Externship program and what you hope to gain from the experience.

**Case Study:** Applicants are required to complete the case study assignment on the following page.

## Interoffice Memorandum

**TO:** AVMA Extern  
**FROM:** Legislative Director  
**SUBJECT:** H.R. XXXX, the Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2023  
**DATE:** October 13, 2023

The Healthy Dog Importation Act (HDIA) was recently reintroduced in the House and the lead sponsor of the legislation who serves on the Agriculture Committee has asked your boss to be a co-sponsor of the bill. Your boss is sophomore democrat representing the Chicago suburbs with little experience in agriculture and would like to learn more about the legislation since he is concerned dogs rescued from Ukraine may not be able to enter the U.S. because of HDIA.

While the HDIA focuses on reducing the spread of rabies from imported dogs, as a veterinarian you understand there are even greater risks associated with these dogs entering the country because of all the other potential diseases they may carry which could affect livestock and even human health.

Please write a memo of less than 500 words to your boss explaining the legislation, including the potential impact on your district. It should also include the potential benefits or consequences of the bill, as well as known supporters or opposition. Work quickly to research the bill and give your boss all the relevant information they will need to make an informed decision on whether to cosponsor the Healthy Dog Importation Act.

***Please do not contact any Member of Congress or their staff regarding this exercise. It is a theoretical scenario created solely for the purpose of evaluating AVMA GRD Externship applicants.***