



2025 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 2025: 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 2025, Congress is expected to be in session during these times. Additional time slots will be added as the application deadline approaches.

___ March 3-28

___ June 2-27

___ July 7-August 1

___ September 2-29

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. 6468 Ban Water Beads Act
DATE: October XX, 2024

The Ban Water Beads Act was introduced in the House and the sponsor of the legislation, the Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, has asked your boss to be a cosponsor of the bill. Your boss is a sophomore republican representing a conservative Texas district. The legislation would amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to ban hazardous water bead products (consumer product composed of water-absorbing polymers) which are marketed or intended as toys and educational materials.

This legislation was brought to your attention because of the bead's potential impacts should they be swallowed by children or pets. The bead technology has other uses, so you need to be aware of any unintended consequences of your recommendation to cosponsor or not cosponsor the bill.

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. Be sure 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 Ban Water Beads 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.