

To: Board of Management

From: William A. Rapley  
Executive Director  
Conservation, Education & Research

Subject: **VETERINARY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Date: 2010-04-06

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**Summary:**

Approval is requested to continue the Veterinary Fellowship program with the University of Guelph for a further three-year period.

**Recommendation:**

**It is recommended that the Toronto Zoo enter into a contract with the University of Guelph for the continuation of the Veterinary Fellowship program for a three-year period from 2010-09-01 to 2013-08-31.**

**Financial Impact:**

The Toronto Zoo has funded the Veterinary Fellowship program since its inception in 1979, and has been very supportive of the program. The cost for the stipend for the new Veterinary Resident totals \$116,090 over three years. An additional \$28,300 is budgeted for research expenses and travel over that same period.

**Background:**

The Toronto Zoo and Ontario Veterinary College have cooperated to provide specialty training in Zoo Animal Medicine and Pathology for graduate veterinarians since 1979. Currently, two Residents are involved in concurrent three-year training programs that begin in different years. The quality of the training program, and the professional abilities of graduates of the program, is recognized internationally. The Residents contribute in providing clinical veterinary care and a pathology service, undertake research projects, publications and presentations, and help maintain the strong link between the Zoo and the University of Guelph.

This program is one of only 14 in the world which has been accredited by the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM), the specialty certification board for zoo and wildlife veterinarians. Senior Veterinarian, Dr. Crawshaw, and Staff Veterinarian, Dr. Dutton and four other graduates of the program have achieved Diplomate status in the ACZM. The program is unique in offering combined training in clinical medicine and pathology, and is the only program which grants an advanced degree (DVSc) to successful Residents.

**Comments/Discussion:**

Dr. Pauline Delnatte has been selected as the next Veterinary Resident. Dr. Delantte is a DVM graduate of the National College of Veterinary Medicine in Toulouse, France. She undertook a zoological medicine internship at the Saint Hyacinthe Veterinary College, University of Montreal, and is currently working as an associate veterinarian in a mixed animal practice, mostly large animals, in France. She has been working toward a career in zoo medicine for several years. She has participated in several other externships in California and France in order to gain as much exposure as possible to exotic animal medicine.

Dr. Delantte was selected from an international field of applicants, including veterinarians from United States, United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand, and Malaysia, besides Canada, and comes with outstanding references.

The training program in Zoo Animal Medicine and Pathology contributes to three of the Toronto Zoo's mandates of education, research, and conservation, in the development of a broadly-based zoological veterinarian, who is clinically competent, able to perform pathological studies, and has the capacity to contribute fully to the scientific activities expected in a modern zoo or wildlife-related organization.

The continuation of the Veterinary Fellowship Program with the University of Guelph will assist the Zoo with additional clinical veterinary care, pathology services and research projects while providing specialty training in zoo animal medicine and pathology for graduate veterinarians.

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