

LARA CURKEET

EXPERIENCE

ONE HEALTH COMMISSION 12 / 2014 - Present
Intern - Web Hosting

Maintaining and updating "Events" portion of OHC website.
Aided in creation of online and print versions of the April 2015 OHC Newsletter.

WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE 04 / 2014 - Present
Operations Associate, IS Business Automation Analyst

Positions held: Operations Associate - 6 months, IS Business Automation Analyst thereafter.
Developing and maintaining SOP's.
Process improvement and creation.
Software QC.
Database creation and maintenance.
Creation and maintenance of customer and business accounts.
Assisting current and prospective PT clients.

DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY 01 / 2013 - Present
Animal Medical Services (AMS) Assistant

Care for clinic animals and facilities.
Independently train incoming new staff members.

FINNS 01 / 2012 - Present
Technical Writer

Wrote and edited user/training manual for microwave tissue ablation machine.

DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY 12 / 2012 - 09 / 2014
Satellite Center Adoption Counselor

Care for satellite adoption center animals and work along side volunteers to advise public on "critter" care and adoption.

COVANCE LABORATORIES 01 / 2007 - 04 / 2012
Research technician

Administered medications and subsequently collected and processed biological samples while adhering to protocol and regulatory requirements.
Served as study lead, scheduled staff and events, and trained staff on study-specific procedures.
Wrote monthly staff newsletter to keep staff informed, united, and to boost morale.

KEENE ORGANICS 03 / 2010 - 10 / 2010
Intern

Manually removed weeds from vegetable fields, leaving beneficial legumes to continue growing.
Removed scapes from garlic; harvested, washed, bunched, and hung garlic at end of season.
Maintained log of hours and tasks accomplished as required to maintain organic certification.
Made and packaged garlic scape pesto for CSA and farm stand sales.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH 05 / 2009 - 11 / 2009
Research Assistant

Performed survey of existing literature on the topic of the effects of socioeconomic factors upon the transmission of infectious disease.

DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY 01 / 2006 - 01 / 2007
Humane Agent

Assisted public and law enforcement agents as on-call humane agent for sick, injured, and dangerous domestic and wild animals

UW-MADISON VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL 01 / 2005 - 01 / 2007
Pharmacy Technician

Filled and orders for veterinary medications and treatments for retail and hospital patients.

Compounded oral and liquid medications for conversion of dose and route appropriate to species treated.
Maintained inventory of medications and treatment supplies throughout both large and small animal treatment areas

UW-MADISON VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL 01 / 2005 - 01 / 2007
CCU (Veterinary) Technician

Triaged animals coming in as emergency patients, as well as inpatient CCU animals

DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY 01 / 2003 - 01 / 2007
Admitting Technician

Performed initial and ongoing health examinations and administer veterinary treatments for domestic and wild animals.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) 05 / 2003 - 09 / 2003
Intern

Conducted plant species surveys in Southwestern Wisconsin in order to compare species composition and density between newly established deer eradication zones and control plots.
Quantified deer density by conducting pellet counts and noting browse.
Interacted with landowners to obtain permission to include their land in study as well as to maintain continued open communication and positive collaborative relationships.

UW HEALTH 08 / 2002 - 05 / 2003
Certified Nursing Assistant

Cared for patients on Pulmonary/GI/Renal hospital unit and associated ICU.

LINDENGROVE, INC. 02 / 2000 - 09 / 2001
Certified Nursing Assistant

Cared for residents living within the wander-risk/dementia specialty unit.

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH 2014 - 2020
Master of Science (MSc) , One Health

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON 2000 - 2014
Bachelor's degree , Biological Aspects of Conservation
Gamma Sigma Delta

LATVIJAS UNIVERSITATE 2003 - 2004
Latvian Culture and Language

INTERESTS

Environment, Animals, Human-Animal-Environment Interface, Non-Profits, Gardening/Farming (organic), Heirloom Plants, Human and Veterinary Medicine, Infectious/Zoonotic Disease, Bacteria and Viruses, Culture-Disease Transmission Interface, Hiking, Biking, Reading, Baking, Knitting, Pets.

Connecting, Creating, and Educating through One Health Ambassadors

It wasn't until I was searching for a master's degree program that I was introduced to the concept of One Health. I quickly realized that I already subscribed to the underpinnings of One Health, but was previously unfamiliar with the term and the movement attached thereto. Now that I am working towards an MSc in One Health, I discuss "OH" with my classmates and with other professionals already involved with One Health with ease, but have received many a confused look when I use the term "One Health" in conversation with even my most environmentally aware acquaintances.

I feel that many current One Health "Outreach" measures, including conferences, websites, and other planned "One Health Events" cater to an audience that is already at least somewhat familiar with One Health. There is a large receptive audience that is not being reached. The creation of a One Health Ambassadors Action Team could help to cover this gap while advocating for, raising awareness of, promoting, and advancing One Health.

I thought of this idea while attending the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Scientists (ASCLS) Wisconsin Convention. Presentations included talks on emerging pathogens, several zoonotic diseases, and a lecture discussing the similarities and differences between human and veterinary medical diagnostics. Many of the poster presentations also contained One Health themes. I feel this would have been a great venue to have a One Health booth among the exhibitors to reach both the professional and student attendees.

I envision the Ambassador team being composed of both professionals and students able to present at a level appropriate for a variety of audiences. Literature and other One Health exhibit materials could be designed for target audiences at the level of elementary school Earth Day celebrations up through professional conventions. The work of many of the other OHC Action Teams, such as the Communications, Education, and Professional Writing Teams would surely compliment the efforts of an Ambassador Team.

The projected costs for creation of a One Health Ambassador Team would include exhibitor fees for events, travel costs, and costs of booths, banners, and any "give away" materials such as pamphlets and pencils. These costs could be mitigated by connecting with new One Health Commission donors at events. It is also possible that some of the expense could be covered through grants or sponsorships, with those grants offered by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation being an option.

The success of a One Health Ambassadors team could be evaluated by several metrics, including OHC sponsorship trends, monitoring of the creation of new One Health Related student and community groups, tracking of website traffic trends, and surveys conducted during and/or after each event. I would love to see Ambassador team grow to the point where event planners are contacting the Commission, inviting the One Health Commission to participate based upon Ambassador Team reputation and event attendee interest.

Dear Members of the One Health Commission Board of Directors,

Please accept my application to serve as a Student Representative on the One Health Commission Board of Directors. I am currently finishing my first year as a student in the University of Edinburgh Online Distance One Health Master of Science program, and was very excited to learn of this opportunity while representing the University of Edinburgh at the Students for One Health GoToMeeting. I would love to share the knowledge and skills I am gaining through my studies to help the One Health Commission achieve their goals while also complementing my studies with valuable practical OH experience. I am fortunate to have been given chosen as an intern for the One Health Commission as a member of the Website Support Team and I look forward to the prospect of becoming even more involved in One Health through the One Health Commission.

My education and career histories both reflect an interest in One Health, as I have been incorporating the health of people, animals, and the environment before being introduced the One Health movement. I have a Bachelor's degree in Biological Aspects of Conservation with an emphasis on Wildlife Ecology, and have worked in both the animal and medical health fields in the capacity of both researcher and caregiver. Having vacillated between animal, human, and environmental health career paths, I always felt that I was being forced to choose one side of the trifecta while ignoring and sacrificing the other two. Finding One Health was to finally create harmony from previous discord.

Based upon my school and work background, I feel that I would represent the position of One Health itself, rather than a domain within One Health. In addition to my experience with multiple aspects of plant, animal (domestic and wild), and human health, I also have experience with marketing, technical writing, creation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), increasing business process efficiency, and working with non-profits. I am very passionate about OHC mission to 'Connect,' 'Create,' and 'Educate,' and I am enthusiastic about sharing this passion with others for the benefit of the earth and all that exist upon it.

Please find included a copy of my CV and a short essay detailing one of the ideas I have for accomplishing the OHC mission. I would be pleased to talk more about my application, and can be reached via email at laracurkeet@hotmail.com.

Warm Regards,

Lara Curkeet
MSc One Health Distance Student – University of Edinburgh