

# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A MORE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE AS AN EQUINE VETERINARIAN?

Equine medicine is not all about racehorses, show horses and backyard pets. Most of the world's equids are truly working animals – taxis, moving vans, farm equipment, produce trucks: the all-terrain vehicles of the poor. Most have little or no veterinary care. Their life situation depends on the knowledge and financial status of their owners.

The Equitarian Initiative is one of the veterinary groups trying to make a difference in these animals' lives. Our goals are to provide veterinary care to the underserved or unserved working equids alongside local veterinarians and veterinary students. This veterinary collaboration creates an interchange of techniques and knowledge that will create a sustainable impact. We also want to educate their care givers in ways to take better care of them. Healthy horses are better work animals, hopefully translating into a better situation for their families.

The Equitarian Initiative is looking for two 4<sup>th</sup> year veterinary students to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Honduras Equitarian Project in Central America. Applicants must have a commitment to equine veterinary medicine and be available for a 2 week block in November. Two scholarships are offered to cover airfare, evacuation insurance and in-country transportation, lodging and meals. One of the scholarships is restricted to University of Minnesota veterinary students, and supported by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation. The second is open to all American and Canadian senior veterinary students, and provided by equine veterinarian, Dr. Marta Granstedt-Volkman.

The successful applicant will need to arrive in the capital city of Honduras, Tegucigalpa, by midday on Sunday, October 30, 2016. The team will return on Sunday, November 13, 2016.

The Honduras Equitarian Project uniquely partners with the only veterinary college in Honduras and the British charity, World Horse Welfare. In 2016, the team will begin work in the southern town of Choluteca where it has been working for the past 3 years, providing examinations and basic health care services. The veterinarians will be joined by some of the Honduran veterinary students that gained experience in Equitarian work there in 2015. The second half of this first week will be in a new location, San Lorenzo, where the working horses carry water from a single pump in the village to many homes that have no other source of water. The second week will begin another new phase of the project, bringing the team to Catacamas in northeastern Honduras, home of the veterinary college and agricultural college. The mission here will be three fold: provide classroom and wet lab instruction on equine topics for all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Honduran veterinary students, begin providing veterinary services in rural communities near the veterinary college, and help develop an equine curriculum for the extension service to use in these communities.

Interested students need to have good horse handling skills and enjoy teaching. Equally important is a sense of adventure, an openness to new experiences and a different culture. You need to be a team player and go with the flow. Spanish language skills are very useful but not essential. Expect to be uncomfortable fairly often – it is hot and humid. You will likely be on your feet all day. Bugs abound. Food is generally regular local fare – rice, beans, tortillas, plantains, eggs, meat. Picky eaters are going to have an issue. The showers are welcome but usually cold. Air conditioning at night is probable, but not guaranteed.

The up side? You will see diseases you learn about but never see in the US. You will assist in the diagnosis and treatment of many horses daily. You will learn field castrations and simple field surgeries. You will interact with Central American veterinary students, local advisors, owners and their animals.

You will get to observe and experience the culture. It will change your perspective. It is truly a great adventure, fun and rewarding in its own way.

If you are interested, please fill out the following application. You will also need to provide 2 letters of recommendation addressing your equine clinical skills, and aptitude for teamwork. You may e-mail the application to Julia Wilson, DVM, DACVIM at [wilso011@umn.edu](mailto:wilso011@umn.edu) or send a hard copy to: Dr. Julia Wilson, Equitarian Initiative, 10777 110<sup>th</sup> St. N., Stillwater, MN 55082. Reference letters may be sent in with the application or sent directly to Dr. Wilson.

The deadline for application is **July 1, 2016 or until filled**. Student selection will be announced no later than July 15, 2016.

This experience will include mentorship like most externships. You will need adequate time to set it up with the school and iron out any issues that arise. Selected individuals will need a current passport and any vaccinations recommended by their physician.

For further information contact: Dr. Julia Wilson [wilso011@umn.edu](mailto:wilso011@umn.edu) or (612)363-2029

Also visit our web page [www.equitarianinitiative.org](http://www.equitarianinitiative.org) and Facebook

## 2016 Honduras Equitarian Project Scholarship Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinary School / College \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Reference #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an introduction about yourself, your horse experience, your career goals and why you would like to participate in Equitarian work on this trip. You may use an additional page if needed. If you speak Spanish at all, please describe your skill level.

**RECOMMENDATION LETTER FOR THE 2016 HONDURAS EQUITARIAN PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP**

Please send the letter to Dr. Julia Wilson, wilso011@umn.edu or 10777 110<sup>th</sup> St. N., Stillwater, MN 55082

**DEADLINE: July 1, 2016**

Name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation provider:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

An individual applying for this scholarship must have good veterinary knowledge and reasonable horse handling skills. Just as important are a positive attitude, great work ethic, and a desire to provide community service. She or he will need to have a 'go with the flow', tolerant philosophy, and must work well with others. Enthusiasm in the face of adversity will go a long way. Please address all these requirements. Thanks!