

Emily Munday
411 N. Almon Street, Spc #613
Moscow, ID, 83843

December 2, 2017

RE: AAFV Scholarship Report & Thank You Letter

Drs. Reavill, Waltzek, Kebus, Whaley, Khoo, and Finley,

Thank you very much for awarding me with the AAFV Student Scholarship. I am truly grateful, and the funds helped offset a very “fishy” summer! I was able to explore different career pathways in aquatic veterinary medicine, and build skills necessary for my chosen career path. I traveled (literally!) coast to coast, and had amazing experiences from Maine to Washington state. I feel truly lucky to have gained so many new skills, new mentors, and to have been on both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans this past summer. I participated in the AquaVet program, shadowed at the Fish Vet Group, Pacific Aquaculture, and with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The AquaVet I program was amazing, and benefitted me in many ways. During the intensive 4-week program, I participated in lectures, labs, and field trips that built a strong foundation in aquatic animal medicine, husbandry, pathology, and more. Most importantly, I met over 30 other colleagues that share my interests in aquatic veterinary medicine, and who will be life-long friends. The faculty were truly inspiring, and what I learned from them – subject content, lab techniques, career paths, and so much more – can hardly be put into words.

Following the AquaVet program, I externed at The Fish Vet Group in Portland, Maine. While there, Dr. Finley taught me about the duties of a veterinarian at a diagnostic lab, and the variety of skills required for that job. Under her mentorship, I continued to practice my fish necropsy skills, sampled for bacteriology and virology, and even got to see net pens in person off the coast of Maine. I learned more about diagnostic techniques such as examining cell cultures for evidence of cytopathic effects from viruses, using PCR to determine the presence of a pathogen, and using qPCR to measure pathogen loads. I was also able to shadow Dr. Finley when she wrote a veterinary feed directive, and learned more about the veterinary-client-patient relationship in aquaculture.

I then trekked back across the country to Nespalem, Washington, where I externed at Pacific Aquaculture, a Steelhead aquaculture farm on the Columbia River. While there, I gained a perspective of a private aquaculture company, how the farm operates, fish nutrition and harvest methods, and some of the challenges of riverine aquaculture. I assisted with water quality measurements, fish necropsies and sampling, and monitoring for disease outbreak.

Following my experience at Pacific Aquaculture, I traveled to the Washington coast to shadow Dr. Jed Varney with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. I traveled with Dr. Varney to several fish hatcheries in Washington state, and assisted him with necropsies, sampling, diagnostics, and helped spawn Chinook salmon. I also assisted members of other agencies such as the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission with sampling, and learned about their protocols and ongoing projects. I also learned more about the job of a state hatchery veterinarian and common salmonid diseases in the northwest region. I think the most valuable thing that Dr. Varney taught me was the importance of the water quality and source, and important things to look for when visiting an aquaculture farm or hatchery. At every hatchery, he

would quiz me about the water source, the type of system, fish density, biosecurity, and more. This was invaluable training for me, and my eye for potential environmental issues in aquaculture systems improved dramatically.

Pursuing these summer opportunities gave me a better understanding of the career paths available to an aquatic veterinarian, and gave me many new skills that I believe will allow me to enter directly into the aquatic veterinary field upon graduation, as well as help me on my way to earning my CertAqV. In addition, I was so inspired and encouraged by this past summer's experiences that I started an aquatics club for our veterinary school, and we already have 20 members! It is rewarding to spread the word about this great profession, and encourage my fellow classmates to integrate fish and other aquatic animals into their studies. Thank you for helping me pursue my goals in fish medicine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily S. Munday".

Emily S. Munday, M.S.
DVM Candidate (Class of 2020)
President, WSU CVM Aquatic Club