

VETERINARY ACADEMY BY WORLDSTRIDES
UNITED STATES • COSTA RICA • THAILAND

Go where
the wild
things are



 **WorldStrides**
Educational Travel & Experiences



Dear Students, Parents, and Teachers,

I'm excited to welcome you to the Veterinary Academy program. I co-founded Loop Abroad when I was a student at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education to immerse students who love animals (like you!) in the hands-on experience of animal care and conservation. What began as a group of nine students in Thailand has grown into a global network of veterinary partners, conservationists, and passionate alumni.

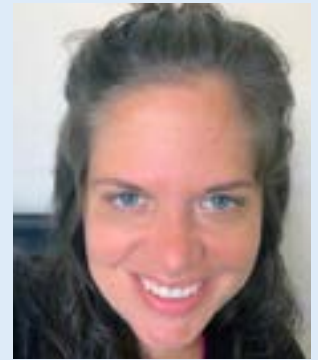
Despite this enormous growth, I'm proud to say that we've stayed true to our original commitment to animal welfare and respect for all living things. This is why I'm so glad to be partnering with WorldStrides on the Veterinary Academy program to offer all students who are passionate about animal welfare the chance to experience this life-changing program. One of the greatest joys of my professional career has been hiring teaching veterinarians who attended a Loop Abroad program in high school or college and know that it truly changed the course of their career.

I hope to see you on the Veterinary Academy program soon!

Best,

Jane Stine, JD, M.Ed.

Co-Founder and Managing Director
Loop Abroad



**MEET THE CO-FOUNDER
OF LOOP ABROAD**

Jane Stine, JD, M.Ed.

**Co-Founder and Managing
Director Loop Abroad**

**Veterinary Academy
by WorldStrides**



Ignite your future

Veterinary Academy, a WorldStrides program in partnership with Loop Abroad, is a unique opportunity for passionate students to get hands-on experience learning about veterinary science. **Students can earn up to 80 veterinary hours that can be included as part of their applications to veterinary school.**

Program Highlights

Veterinary Academy programs are designed to give high-aspiring middle and high school students a hands-on introduction to the growing career paths available within veterinary medicine. These programs offer a unique and immersive introduction to specialized areas of animal science, all delivered in a small group setting, within a safe and secure environment.

Veterinary Academy is your chance to learn from teaching veterinarians and seasoned animal care and conservation professionals as you witness firsthand the behind-the-scenes moments in a working veterinarian's life.

You can look forward to countless incredible experiences, including:

- Time with a variety of animals, practicing handling, rehabilitation, and various clinical skills*
- Honing your skills through daily field classes, lectures, or laboratory workshops
- Learning in groups of 15 or fewer, on average, giving you endless opportunities to ask questions of your teaching veterinarian
- Shadowing animal care experts as you study topics ranging from veterinary surgery to farm animal care to marine animal research
- Living and working alongside fellow students who are equally passionate about caring for animals

You can also earn up to 80 veterinary hours—a required part of every vet school application!

Staffing & Supervision

At WorldStrides the safety and well-being of each student is our highest priority. *Veterinary Academy*, with an overall student-to-staff ratio of 7:1, is staffed by an on-site director who oversees the entire program experience. Teaching veterinarians lead educational activities with a student-to-teaching veterinarian ratio of 15:1 while supporting staff lead evening activities. Staff members have extensive experience in veterinary medicine, travel programs, and working with students. All WorldStrides staff members undergo background checks and are trained extensively on safety procedures.

Location

Veterinary Academy offers programs in the United States, Costa Rica, and Thailand. Students and staff will stay together in the same location to ensure 24/7 supervision and support. Accommodations vary by program location.

**Please note: for your own safety as well as the safety of the animals, not all animals may be touched or held by participants. Your teaching veterinarian will advise you of the proper time, place, and method to handle animals when it is safe to do so.*



Programs in the
United States

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Veterinary Medicine: Middle School



Grades:

6–8

Dates:

Residential: June 29–July 5 | July 6–12

Day: June 30–July 5 | July 7–12

Tuition: Residential: \$3,799 | Day: \$3,399

Getting an early taste of various potential careers is essential for young students. At *Veterinary Medicine: Middle School*, you can look forward to doing just that as you:

- **Get hands-on experience in the lab** using the same tools and techniques as professional veterinarians, including practicing physical exams and veterinary first aid, learning suturing techniques, blow dart practice, and performing an assisted dissection.
- **Explore the Smithsonian National Zoo**, home to over 2,100 animals that represent nearly 400 species, to learn about the important roles played by zookeepers and veterinarians. You will also learn about the business side of caring for animals from the cost of animal feed to enclosure design and maintenance, designing enrichment activities, and the important role of zoos in animal conservation.
- **Learn about veterinary school**, including the application process and the various career paths in veterinary science.

VICTORIA, TX Zoo Medicine & Management



Grades:

6–8
9–12

Dates:

Middle School: June 29–July 5 | July 6–12*
High School: June 15–21 | June 22–28

Middle School Tuition: Residential: \$3,799 | Day: \$3,399

High School Tuition: \$4,599

The Texas Zoo is on a mission to connect the public with wildlife and the importance of preserving as many species and habitats as possible. Many of the animals at the Texas Zoo are native to Texas and most are rescue animals that could not be returned to the wild. During your time in Texas, you can look forward to:

- **Daily animal care rotations** including food preparation, enclosure maintenance, and designing animal enrichment activities.
- **Field classes** to explore important topics like animal behavioral observations, zoo ethics, rehabilitation and release, conducting large animal exams, and veterinary diagnostics across the different areas of the Texas Zoo.
- **Researching and presenting** your own Keeper Talk to the visiting public at the zoo
- **Time in the lab** participating in lab activities including wound suturing and bandaging, parasitology, small animal physical exams, and an enclosure design workshop.

**Day program begins one day after session dates listed above*

WEST PALM BEACH, FL

Florida Reef Experience



Grades:

9–12

Dates:

July 27–August 2

Tuition:

\$3,599

Florida’s coral reefs are an important part of the ocean’s ecosystem and they’re disappearing. During your time at the *Florida Reef Experience*, you’ll contribute to the vital conservation efforts of The Reef Institute. That means you can look forward to:

- **Data collection runs** to monitor coral and fish conditions and perform coral tagging. You’ll receive on-the-spot training in data collection as you performing in-water monitoring of stony and soft corals and fish populations.
- **Time in the land-based nursery** to learn about the latest innovations in coral conservation like gene banking. The Reef Institute currently houses over 329 colonies of coral in their land-based nursery. You’ll go behind the scenes of this cutting-edge research facility to learn about the latest innovations in conservation technology.
- **Excursions to Peanut Island** where you’ll spend several days exploring, tagging coral, and identifying fish species. Home to at least 20 different species of corals, the lagoon at Peanut Island is also home to eels, fish, turtles, sea horses, manatees, and even the occasional shark.
- **Explore the flora and fauna of John D. MacArthur Beach State Park**, a barrier island habitat that protects rare and endangered plant and animal species from the elements.

ATTLEBORO, MA

Zoo Medicine & Management



Grades:

9–12

Dates:

July 13–19

July 20–26

Tuition:

\$4,699

The Capron Park Zoo, home to about 100 animals representing 44 species, is on a mission to inspire the public to become more interested in the natural world through their exhibits and outreach programs. During your time in Massachusetts, you can look forward to:

- **Daily animal care rotations** including food preparation, enclosure maintenance, and designing animal enrichment activities.
- **Field classes** to explore important topics like animal behavioral observations, zoo ethics, rehabilitation and release, conducting large animal exams, and veterinary diagnostics across the different areas of the Capron Park Zoo.
- **Researching and presenting** your own Keeper Talk to the visiting public at the zoo
- **Time in the lab** participating in lab activities including wound suturing and bandaging, parasitology, small animal physical exams, and an enclosure design workshop.
- **Visiting a working farm to learn** about large animal medicine, an in-demand veterinary specialty in the United States and around the world. You'll gain experience working with horses, pigs, and cattle.

PINE BUSH, NY

Horse & Large Animal Medicine



Grades:

9–12

Dates:

July 6–12

Tuition:

\$4,699

Large animal medicine is a vitally important job in protecting the well-being of horses as well as the various farm animals and humans they often come into contact with. During your time in New York, you can look forward to:

- **Shadowing a working large animal veterinary** as they care for rehabilitating horses and teach you how to perform physical exams, prep horses for surgery, and how to properly bandage healing wounds. In clinical lab rotations you'll practice vital skills, including a microscope to conduct blood smear examinations, calculate prescription dosages, and learn proper suturing techniques.
- **Learning about reproductive and neonatal health principles**, preventative care techniques, and the importance of biosecurity and parasite control during a visit to a local horse breeding facility.
- **Studying the musculoskeletal system of horses** as you learn more about the biomechanics of riding disciplines and equine anatomy.



Programs in
Costa Rica & Thailand

SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Veterinary Experience



Grades:

9–12

Dates:

June 15–28

Tuition:

\$6,999

In Costa Rica, you'll get the opportunity to contribute to the vital efforts of respected animal care facilities as you learn from the experts who run them. You'll spend two weeks working and learning at a stray dog sanctuary and at a wildlife rescue center where you can look forward to:

- **Going behind-the-scenes at the Land of the Strays dog sanctuary** where you'll participate in clinical lab rotations to practice skills like conducting exams, injection and catheter placement, proper surgery prep techniques, conducting ear and skin cytology, and creating post-surgery care plans for dogs recovering from procedures, including spay and neuter surgeries.
- **Completing rotations in the on-site animal hospital** at Rescue Center Costa Rica and learning about rehabilitation for animals that have been the victims of wildlife trafficking or who otherwise need care, including toucans, spider monkeys, porcupines, and kinkajous.
- **Honing your emergency veterinary skills**, including suturing, taking animal histories, safe handling and restraint techniques, and specialized diet preparation.
- **Practicing your animal identification skills** while exploring the highly biodiverse area around the Arenal Volcano National Park and Manuel Antonio National Park.
- **Immersing yourself in the culture** of Costa Rica through fun, culturally enriching activities including a dance lesson with a local instructor, Spanish trivia, and an art project inspired by the motifs of the country.

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

Elephant Sanctuary & Dog Rescue



Grades:

9–12

Dates:

July 27–August 9

Tuition:

\$6,999

Thailand is one of the world’s few remaining havens for elephants. Unfortunately, the booming tourist industry often forces these gentle giants into unsafe working conditions. Over your two weeks in Thailand, you can look forward to:

- **Living next to the elephants** that call the Elephant Nature Park their home, helping sanctuary staff to care for elephant enclosures, learn about elephant anatomy and physiology, and assist the on-site elephant vet in providing care and testing for various medical conditions.
- **Going behind-the-scenes at a dog rescue clinic** in Chiang Mai where you’ll learn how to handle instruments, suture wounds, and complete canine physical examinations. You’ll participate in a heart dissection, practice drawing blood, and assist your teaching veterinarian with procedures in the exam room.
- **Preparing for your future** by learning what it takes to be accepted to vet school and how you can start preparing now. You will also learn about other career opportunities in the fields of conservation and animal behavior.
- **Exploring the Land of Smiles**, as Thailand is widely known for its friendly people, beautiful surroundings, and delicious food. You’ll visit local street markets, take a meditation lesson with a Buddhist monk, and have the choice between learning to cook authentic Thai cuisine or ziplining through the jungle canopy.

Program Details

From safety to scholarships, we've thought of everything to ensure you have a truly unforgettable experience. Have more questions? Check out our website at vetmed.worldstrides.com or give us a call at **844-794-4426**.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. We implement first-rate health, safety, and risk-management protocols for all of our programs based on recommendations from our Health & Safety Team and medical advisors. During your time at **Veterinary Academy**, your teaching veterinarian and other professional staff members will advise you of the proper time, place, and method to handle animals when it is safe to do so. For your own safety as well as the safety of the animals, not all animals may be touched or held by participants.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS & STUDENT FUNDRAISING

WorldStrides offers a limited number of partial scholarships to qualified students each year based upon financial need, scholastic merit, leadership achievement, and other factors. Submission of a scholarship application is required to be considered for an award.

To learn more about our scholarship application process and fundraising ideas, contact the Office of Admissions at 844-794-4426. Both the scholarship application process and fundraising will take time, so students are strongly advised to begin as early as possible. Submission of a scholarship application is required to be considered for a reward.

PROGRAM TRANSPORTATION

All program participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the program location. For international programs, all individuals are solely responsible for any passport and visa requirements.

Please Note: We encourage you to wait until after receiving confirmation of your session enrollment before booking any travel arrangements.

Our Partnership with Loop Abroad

Veterinary Academy was created in collaboration with Loop Abroad to empower students with a better understanding of the careers available in animal science and how to pursue them. Under the direction of Loop Abroad's expert teaching veterinarians, students will develop hands-on skills that prepare and encourage them to work toward the animal science careers of their dreams.

Loop Abroad was founded in 2009 with the goal of broadening pre-veterinary education by introducing a more global perspective. Over the past thirteen years, they have become the leading pre-veterinary travel program in the nation, with programs in nine countries across six continents and thousands of alums at university and vet school campuses across the United States.

Our partner programs with Loop Abroad are designed to immerse students in the field of veterinary medicine and introduce the wide variety of careers available to veterinarians. Each small group of students is paired with a teaching veterinarian whose sole job is to mentor these students and build a community of driven individuals who are eager to change the world for the animals they love. With a full team of wildlife and zoo experts from around the world, Loop Abroad empowers students to pursue the animal science careers of their dreams.

About WorldStrides

For over 55 years, WorldStrides has been creating life-changing moments for students. Our programs provide immersive test drives of nearly 20 different career paths, from Medicine to National Security to Veterinary Medicine. After attending one of our programs, 92% of students can identify multiple career paths within their field of interest.

Dr. Lauren Gawel earned her DVM at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in 2022 and works as an Avian and Exotics Specialty Associate Veterinarian in Massachusetts. She is an alumna of the Loop Abroad pre-veterinary program, which she attended as a high school student. Dr. Lauren's areas of interest include conservation, reptiles, wildlife research, sustainable living, and teaching the next generation of veterinarians through the *Veterinary Academy* program.





 **WorldStrides**
Educational Travel & Experiences

WorldStrides is the global leader in educational travel and experiential learning. We provide a wide range of programs for over 550,000 students annually, partnering with more than 7,000 K-12 schools and 800 universities around the world.

Enroll Now!

[VETMED.WORLDSTRIDES.COM](https://www.vetmed.worldstrides.com)