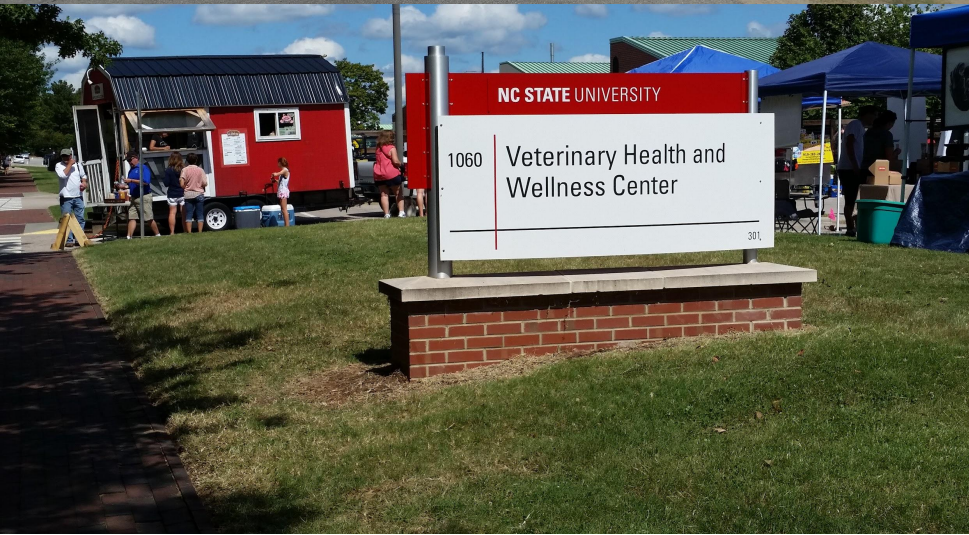


# SUMMER AT NC STATE'S TURTLE RESCUE TEAM

**Daniel Dyson**



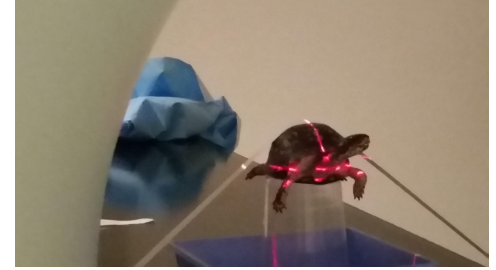
# WHAT TURTLE TEAM DOES

In the late 1990's, Veterinarian Doctor Lewbart of NC State created the 100% student-run, volunteer Turtle Rescue Team. The aim of TRT is to provide medical services to rehabilitated turtles to be released back into the wild. TRT treats over 300 turtles each year, including eastern box turtles, various water turtles, snapping turtles, and even hatchlings! TRT not only provides a safe environment for turtles to recuperate, but also provides them with medication , treatments and surgery.





# WHAT I DID



I did not expect to have as many responsibilities and opportunities as I did with TRT! My daily routine included many drug calculations, injecting of medications, application of various treatments, and much more. Some days though, I was lucky enough to watch CT scans, surgeries, and I even got to drill a hole repair into a turtle's shell! (I had the ability to do all of this because every turtle at TRT is RESCUED AND WILD, no pets)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixYxloHWX-s>



# SKILLS NEEDED/LEARNED

Though Rebecca, my supervisor, did a great job of overseeing/training me, a great deal of independence was key for the type of responsibilities I had. I was working with non lethal medications, but an overdose or underdose would have had negative side effects. Because of this, I had to be able to confidently calculate chemistry like conversions multiple times a day on my own. Since I worked with a group of different people every day though, interpersonal skills were vital for communication.



# WHAT DID I GAIN FROM TURTLE RESCUE TEAM?

The hours I spent with TRT this summer were really invaluable. At the beginning of the summer, I was unsure of my career path or destination. Though I knew that I would love to be in the medical field, I was unsure to whether I wanted to pursue a laboratory related job, or something more clinical. After spending my summer with TRT I was sure that I was interested in a hands-on, clinical profession instead of a job where I would be sitting in a lab most of my time.



# CLASSROOM CONNECTION

The biggest connections I made between my internship and the Health Science Career Academy classes are mainly specific skills taught in Health Team Relations and Health Science II. Though obtaining Health Science I skills did occasionally come in handy, the most helpful things taught to me before TRT were the Health Career Cluster Skills. No matter which job or internship you could have in the Healthcare field REQUIRES an understanding of these skills. (Communication, Equipment Skills, Attention to Detail, Responsibility, Teamwork)

## Health Science I

This course focuses on human anatomy, physiology and human body diseases and disorders, and biomedical therapies. Students will learn about health care careers within the context of human body systems. Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences. Biology is recommended as preparation for this course.

## Health Science II

This course is designed to help students expand their understanding of financing and trends of health care agencies, fundamentals of wellness, legal and ethical issues, concepts of teamwork, and effective communication. Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences



# CONCLUSION

This summer, I really lucked out on my internship. I had no clue what to expect going in, but really enjoyed every minute of it and will no doubt do it in the future. I have even volunteered to help rehab two turtles who are currently at my house (Jakarta and Portsmouth). I am extremely fortunate to have been able to have such a hands on and helpful experience this summer. I strongly encourage anyone to pursue a summer internship who is considering it at all. Huge thank you to Mrs. Laffan, Rebecca, Dr. Lewbart, and Mrs. Cleveland for their help throughout this experience!

