

Faculty: Melissa Mazan, Professor, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Project Locations: Grafton, MA and Fez, Morocco

Dates: mid-May – early August, 2019

Project Title: Owner presentation versus veterinarian diagnosis of cases presented to a hospital for working equids in Morocco

Project Details: The American Fondouk is a pro bono hospital in Fez, Morocco, that has served working horses, donkeys, and mules for almost one hundred years. There is an extensive source of case records that have been archived at the American Fondouk, which have remained largely unexplored. We have been engaged in a project to identify the major illnesses and injuries for which patients have been presented to the Fondouk in the light of problems that their owners thought they had, in order to better strategize how to use the Fondouk's resources.

Tasks and Responsibilities of Research Assistant: The student will spend the first two weeks of the program performing research into the Fondouk, the background of working equids in Northern Africa, and to gain a better understanding of the work that has been done thus far. The next three to four weeks will be spent at the Fondouk both attending daily rounds and taking photos of the hospital and its patients, and analyzing the written caselogs. The final weeks of the summer will be spent analyzing the data that has been acquired, and creating a photo essay to put on the Fondouk's website describing the work that has been done.

Qualifications:

An interest in working veterinary medicine and with public health would be useful

Description of Field Site:

Fez was founded in the 9th century; it is the home of the oldest university in the world, it is listed as a World Heritage Unesco site, and people still regard it as the cultural home of Morocco. The American Fondouk is within walking distance of the old Medina in Fez, which is considered one of the best-preserved historic towns of the Arab-Muslim world, according to Wikipedia. According to Professor Mazan, it is lovely, mesmerizing, worthy of many visits. The Fondouk itself has been in Fez for almost 100 years, and is very well-regarded by the community. It is physically a walled compound open to the public during the day, but with closed gates and with a watchman at night. There are usually other students, veterinarians, and visitors from around the world. Most people speak Arabic, French, and English. It is hot in the summer.

Housing in Morocco:

The American Fondouk has dormitory accommodations for students on the property, and a cook.