

Career Path to Aquarium Animal Veterinary Care



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Veterinarian, NC Aquariums

- Good grades in school to get into veterinary school, lots of pets growing up
- Volunteering with animals (museum live animal collection, wildlife)
- Bachelor of Science in Biology
- College summer internships: wildlife rehabilitation, whale research, dolphin/sea turtle rehabilitation
- Veterinary school (4 years past college), with Masters degree in Public Health
- Veterinary internships: small animal medicine, wildlife medicine
- Veterinary residency at NC State (zoo and aquatic medicine, 3 years)



Heather Broadhurst

Veterinary Technician, NC Aquariums

- SCUBA certification as a teenager.
- Internships and jobs in husbandry and marine science education in highschool and college
- Bachelor of Science in Marine Science
- Aquarist in major aquariums
- Research Technician position – assist with field and lab research, wildlife rehab, aquarium animal clinical care



GOALS of Aquarium Animal Veterinary Care

- **To assure the health and welfare of all the animals within the Aquariums' collection through quarantine, preventative medicine, nutrition, research, routine clinical care and husbandry and achieve**
- **Provide animal health care to support the Aquariums' mission to promote an awareness, understanding, appreciation and conservation of the diverse natural and cultural resources of North Carolina's ocean, estuaries, rivers, streams and other aquatic environments.**

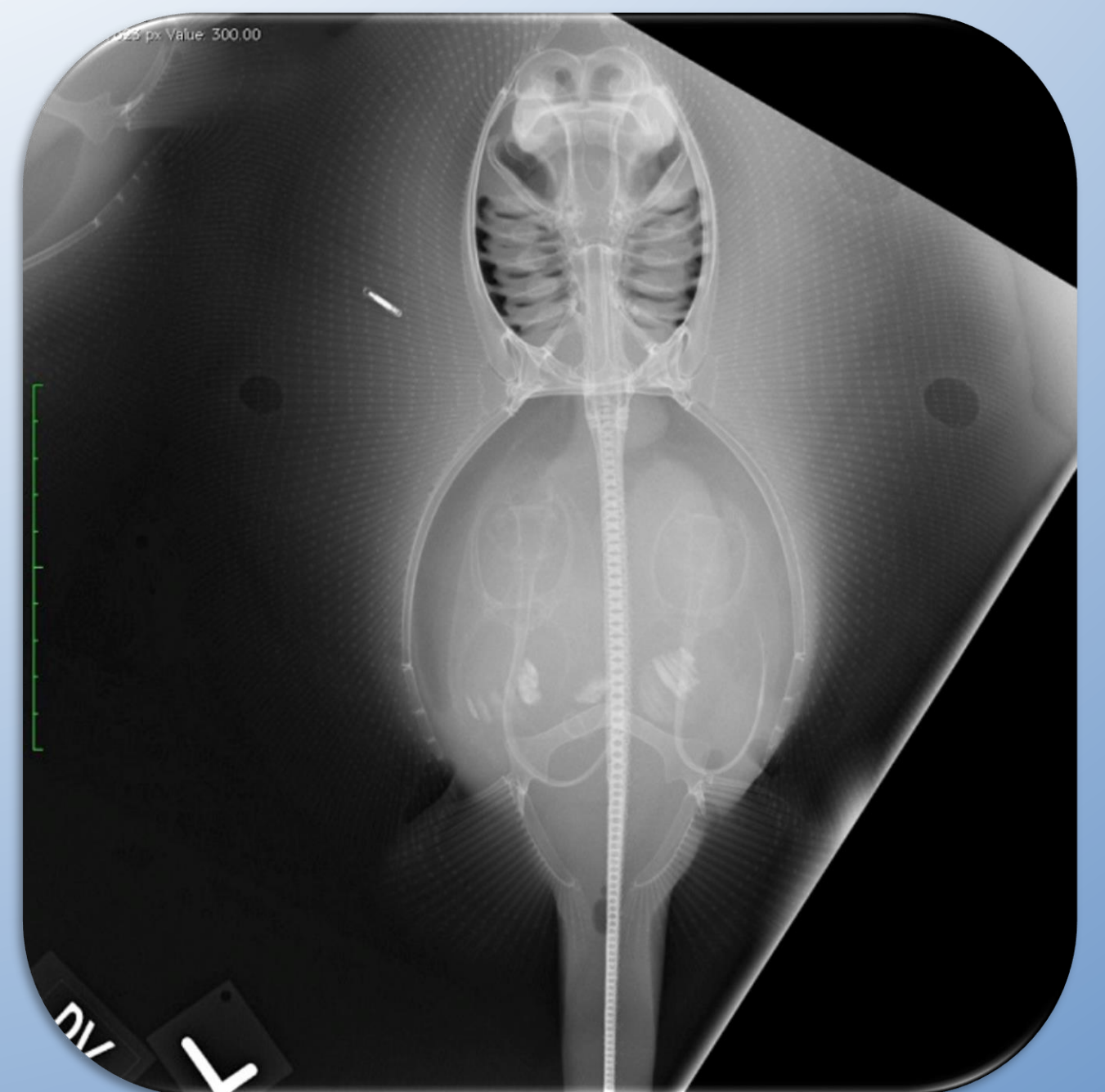
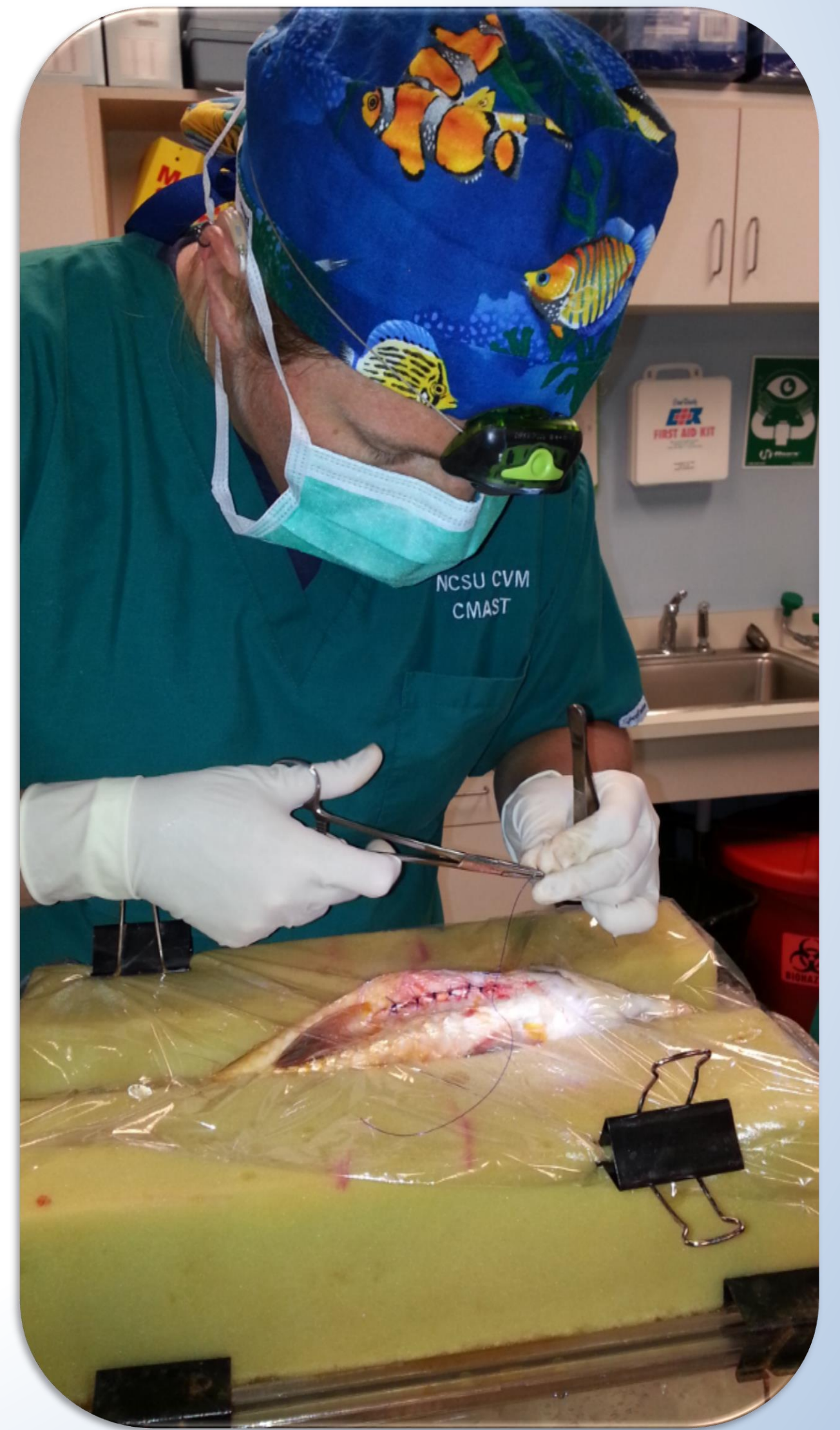
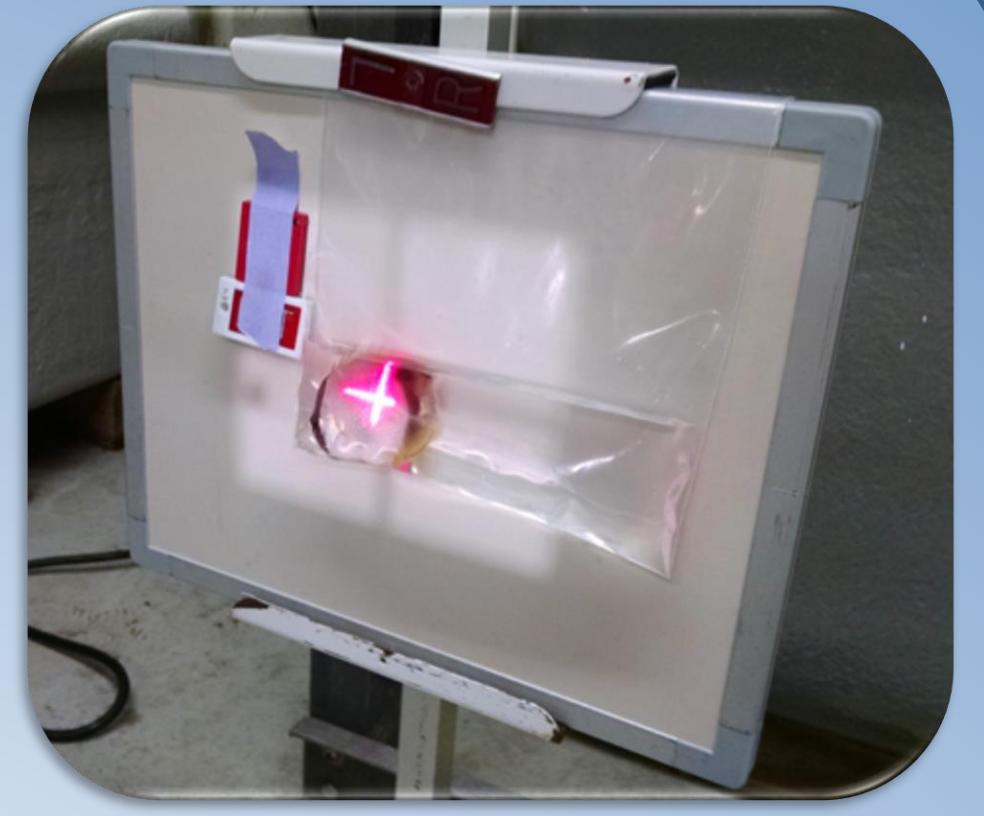
Quarantine

- All animals brought into the Aquarium go through this process prior to introduction to current exhibit and collection animals

Preventative Animal Health

- Good husbandry
- Annual exams- comprehensive hands-on exam, including morphometrics, blood sampling, radiographs, ultrasound, electrocardiography, vaccination, dental care, and any other necessary care.

Clinical Care and Diagnostics



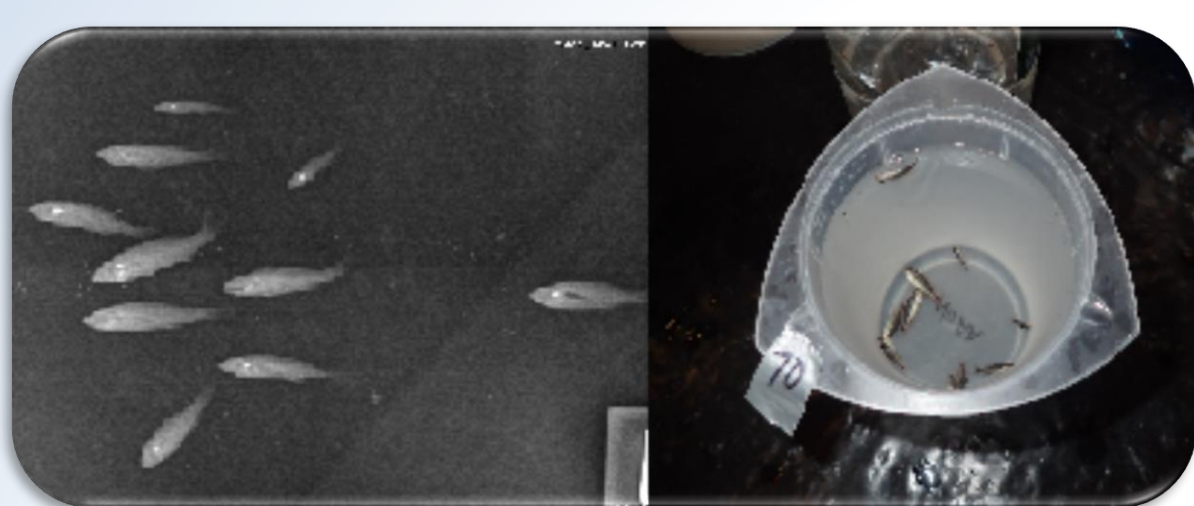
Aquarium Animal Veterinary Care



Conservation



The primary goal of the sand tiger project is to learn how adult female sand tigers are using North Carolina shipwrecks as essential habitats. Females are tagged. Ultrasounds are conducted to confirm if females are gravid. Blood samples collected and analyzed



The Aquariums worked on a project with Carteret Community College (CCC) Aquaculture program to advance fish breeding efforts. Aquaculture instructor David Cerino and his students designed a way to capture eggs from spawning fish in four current Aquarium habitats. This conservation project allows educational opportunities that will increase fish sustainability and could directly affect wild populations.



The Aquariums rescue and rehab hundreds of sea turtle annually. Each case allows us to learn more about conserving these endangered species.

Research and Teaching



The Aquariums collaborate with the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine to provide learning opportunities for zoological medicine residents and vet students.



The Aquariums collaborates with the South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation (SEZARC) to study reproduction of southern stingrays in aquarium environments.



Southern stingray ovary



Southern stingray uterus



