

## **Student Scientist Studies Small Animal Surgery at Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in Upstate New York**



The road to becoming a veterinarian is long and difficult. Beyond having a love for animals, a broad understanding of anatomy and chemistry is required. In addition to being technically astute, it is important to have a support network (e.g. colleagues, family, professors) in place to assist with gaining access to opportunities and to forge ahead in the face of adversity.

During summer 2014 (July 6 thru July 12), Jett Hampton, a 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Detroit Edison Early College of Excellence and a student scientist in the Ecotek Lab Program, was invited to participate in the animal science program at the Cornell School of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, New York.

Jett has been involved in other veterinarian programs (i.e. 4-H Michigan State University) and has field experience in zoology (i.e. Everglades National Park) but his time at Cornell was different. It was more comprehensive. He was able to work and attend courses with students in the Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine (DVM) program. It gave Jett a chance to see, first hand, the commitment required to be in the profession. While at Cornell he focused his time on learning about small animal surgery.

Jett was exposed to a number of biomedical concepts ranging from “reading” radiographs to the application of safety protocols during animal surgeries to evaluating animal specimens to performing wound suturing. His most interesting lecture and lab experience was with Dr. Paul Maza and Dr. Allison Miller, senior lecturers in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. During the session Jett learned about the gastrointestinal and reproductive systems found in canines.

In addition to learning about small animal surgery, Jett had the opportunity to see other parts of the Cornell. He visited the Cornell Lab of Ornithology where he used different technologies to analyze and measure the bioacoustics of birds and insects. The time that Jett spent at Cornell did not only reinforce his love, passion and pursuit of a career in vet medicine, it helped him mature and build a connection with like-minded individuals.



Jett working with mentor in the lab to observe the gastrointestinal tract of a dog



Jett honing suturing skills on bananas in preparation for gastrointestinal extraction



Small animal surgery facility at Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

### **About the Ecotek Science Program**

Ecotek is a science research lab program for young inventors and researchers in grades 5 thru 12. Student scientists work on projects aligned with the issues being addressed by world leaders at the United Nations. To learn more about Ecotek Lab go to <http://www.ecotek-us.com>