

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences

Equine Field Service Residency Program

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine offers a 3-year Equine Field Service residency program with concurrent graduate studies for completion of a Master of Science degree. The residency program is designed to train specialists in equine practice to fulfill the requirements for certification by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, equine specialty.

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine is located in Blacksburg, Virginia. The Equine Field Service unit serves a 35 mile radius surrounding Blacksburg providing primary care to horses on-farm and in-hospital. Faculty boarded in surgery, internal medicine, theriogenology and equine practitioner boards are available for the training program. All disciplines in equine practice are covered in the program with a special emphasis on lameness and reproduction. The caseload is varied and includes horses used for hunting, eventing, jumping, show, trail, pleasure, dressage and breeding.

The Equine Field Service unit is part of a 24 stall large animal hospital including a 3 stall isolation unit and 10 stall research barn. Diagnostic and therapeutic equipment for in-field use includes portable digital radiography, endoscopy, ultrasound and shock wave. Cases may be managed in-hospital that are an extension of cases seen in-field.

The resident is part of the team providing daily and emergency care to Field Service clients and is responsible for case care, emergency duty, clinic rounds, medical records and presenting seminars each semester. Residents are also enrolled as a graduate student at Virginia Tech and take didactic coursework each semester to complete requirements toward a Master of Science degree. Time is allocated during the residency to take courses and complete research and publication requirements. Rotation on surgery and medicine services in-hospital is encouraged on a limited basis. In addition, elective rotations at other institutions may be performed. Performance is evaluated every 6 months and appointment to the residency is renewed annually based on satisfactory completion of the program and hospital duties. Residency completion is awarded after fulfilling all the requirements of the residency and the graduate program.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Please contact Dr. Sharon Witonsky (phone 540-231-2773) or email switonsk@vt.edu for additional information or to schedule a visit.

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