

LARGE ANIMAL INTERNSHIP

General Information

I. Introduction

The large animal internship program is offered by the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences (DLACS) in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the large animal internship program are to:

1. Improve the knowledge and skills of the large animal intern in equine and food animal medicine to prepare the intern for a residency program or private practice.
2. Assist in the instruction of senior and underclass veterinary students.
3. Provide care for large animal patients in the Large Animal Medicine (LAM) and Equine Field Services (EFS) Sections of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH).

III. Prerequisite

Prerequisite for acceptance into the large animal internship program is a DVM degree or equivalent.

IV. Application Procedures

Application will proceed through the Veterinary Intern/Resident Matching Program. The Matching Program will be administered by the Chairman of DLACS.

V. Criteria for Selection

Candidates for the large animal internship program will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Letter of intent
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Transcripts of university performance
4. Three letters of reference
5. Experience

VI. Administration of the Large Animal Internship Program

The program will be administered by the Chairman of DLACS. The large animal intern will be responsible to the Large Animal Internship Advisor who is a member of the DLACS.

VII. Responsibilities

1. Management

The large animal intern will spend approximately 50% of the appointment in LAM and 50% of the appointment in EFS, and will provide care for large animal patients in LAM and EFS.

The specific responsibilities of the large animal intern will vary depending on the Section to which the large animal intern is assigned.

2. Emergency Duty

The large animal intern will be assigned to the emergency schedules for LAM and EFS. The large animal intern will receive a copy of the emergency schedule and will be available by pager or telephone on the weeknight or weekend to which he/she is assigned. The large animal intern assigned to the emergency schedule will come to the VTH when notified of an emergency and will assist with the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

3. Clinical Instruction

The large animal intern will participate in the clinical instruction of senior veterinary students. The large animal intern will use clinical cases to instruct senior veterinary students. The large animal intern will assist the student with routine diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and perform procedures themselves when the procedure poses a significant risk to the patient or when the student has unsuccessfully attempted the procedure.

4. Laboratory Instruction

The large animal intern will participate in the preclinical instruction of veterinary students. The large animal intern will assist faculty with the instruction of underclass veterinary students in various laboratories. All requests for the large animal intern to provide instructional assistance must be approved in advance by the Large Animal Internship Advisor.

5. Seminars

The large animal intern will attend and participate in Large Animal Resident Rounds, Large Animal Case Rounds and Large Animal Medicine Journal Club during the appointment. The large animal intern is encouraged to attend all seminars given by visiting faculty.

6. Continuing Education Programs

The large animal intern will be encouraged to assist in the presentation of continuing education programs offered by the Department. All requests for the large animal intern to participate in continuing education programs must be approved by the Large Animal Internship Advisor.

7. Publication

The large animal intern must prepare a case report or review article suitable for publication in a refereed journal. The large animal intern is encouraged to ask faculty in LAM or EFS for assistance in preparing the manuscript which must be submitted to the Large Animal Internship Advisor before the end of the appointment.

8. Professional Development

The large animal intern will participate in a three-week elective rotation during the appointment. The timing and location of this rotation will be approved in advance by the Large Animal Internship Advisor.

The Department will attempt to provide partial funding for the large animal intern to attend a regional or national veterinary meeting.

9. Evaluation

The large animal intern will be evaluated every six months by faculty in LAM and EFS. The evaluation will include medical knowledge, clinical skills, responsibility, attitude and communication skills. An assessment of the large animal interns strength and weakness will be made by faculty in LAM and EFS. Results of these evaluations will be discussed with the large animal intern and forwarded to the Chairman of DLACS.

The large animal intern will submit a written evaluation of the program or discuss the strength and weakness of the program during an exit interview with the Charman of DLACS.