

VMRCVM Ophthalmology Residency Supplement

I. Introduction and Objectives of Ophthalmology Residency Program

The ophthalmology residency is designed to: 1) train residents in the art and science of veterinary ophthalmology, 2) fulfill credentialing requirements to take the American Board of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ABVO) certifying examination and 3) help prepare residents to successfully complete the ABVO certifying examination, leading to Diplomate status in the ACVO

Residency training is the direct responsibility of ophthalmologists within the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences.

Additional objective as per Departmental Program:

<http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/org/dsacs/resprogs/SAResProgs.pdf>

II. Prerequisites

DVM degree or its equivalent

Completion of at least one year of veterinary internship or private practice equivalent

Admission to the graduate school program of Virginia Tech.

Candidates should be dedicated to the pursuit of ABVO Board Certification, leading to Diplomate status in the ACVO.

Agreement to the following Covenant Not to Compete, which will apply for the duration of the residency and for 24 months after completion of the residency: During any period in which this restrictive covenant applies, you will not engage directly or indirectly in the practice of veterinary medicine within the geographical scope of the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area or the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford Metropolitan Statistical Area. Metropolitan Statistical Area is defined as of 2010 by the U.S. Census Bureau.

III. Resident Advisor

A Resident Advisor will be appointed by the Department Head and will be responsible for direction and coordination of clinical duties, teaching assignments, advice on establishing a graduate committee, advice on research (concepts, funding, and implementation), publications, and preparation for board examination and counseling. Additional responsibilities include monitoring progress of the residency activities described herein. Coordination of the resident's responsibilities and activities with the resident's Graduate Advisor is expected.

IV. Graduate Advisor

A Graduate Advisor (Major Professor) will be identified by the end of the first Fall semester. The Graduate Advisor and the Graduate Committee will be primarily responsible for direction and approval of the resident's Graduate Program.

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V. Residency/Graduate Program

A. Clinical Program

1. The resident will spend approximately 43 weeks per year in the clinic, with an average of 9 weeks per year off-clinic time. The exact distribution of on-clinic and off-clinic time per year will vary depending on the resident's needs concerning the Graduate Program, research, boards preparation and other factors. Alteration of this distribution will be at the discretion of the Resident Advisor and Graduate Advisor.
2. Of the 9 weeks per year of off-clinic time, reading, research activities, library work, seminar preparation, didactic teaching, publication activities, credentials and board examination preparation, etc. will make up 7 of the 9 weeks. Up to 2 weeks personal leave will make up the remainder of the off-clinic time. The amount of time spent in each activity during off-clinic time will vary from year to year depending on the resident's Graduate Program and other commitments.
3. The resident will receive both referral and local ophthalmology cases for all species and will have primary case responsibility for all small animal cases. Large animal and/or exotic animal primary case responsibility will be shared with appropriate large animal and/or exotic animal faculty. Faculty clinicians (or chief residents, when applicable) working with the resident will supervise all referral cases seen by the resident. Residents will require a supervising clinician's approval for all major procedures. If subspecialty (e.g. internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, etc.) consultation is necessary, approval from the supervising senior clinician is required prior to requesting consultation. Residents will be responsible for communication with referring veterinarians and follow-up communications with clients. Documentation of communications with referring veterinarians and clients must be maintained in the medical record for audit by the supervising clinician. The supervising clinician (faculty ophthalmologist or chief resident) will review and co-sign all discharge reports/referral letters.
4. Ophthalmology residents will receive all emergency referrals to the ophthalmology service while on clinic duty, unless otherwise specified (e.g. off call weekends). In addition, ophthalmology residents will serve as backup for ophthalmology emergencies seen by the VTH Emergency Service. Ophthalmology residents will be backed up on emergency cases by the ophthalmology faculty clinician (or chief resident, if applicable) on clinic duty.
5. Beginning either July 1 or January 1 of the third year of the program (at the discretion of clinical faculty), the resident may be granted Chief Resident status. Chief Resident status certifies that the resident may function as a senior clinician with mandatory case supervision not being required, but consultation with the faculty ophthalmologists is available and encouraged, whenever necessary.
6. Appropriate professional appearance is mandatory whenever client contact is possible.
7. A professional attitude towards students, staff, and faculty is expected at all times.

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B. Teaching

1. Ophthalmology residents are expected to contribute to the teaching of year four students in the Ophthalmology Clerkship through interaction in the examination room, the treatment room, and the surgery suite. Ophthalmology residents are expected to review and evaluate all student records in a timely manner (e.g. within 48 hours of submission). Student rounds may be conducted by the resident at the discretion of the ophthalmologist on clinic duty.
2. Ophthalmology residents will participate in all ophthalmic diagnostic and surgery laboratory exercises for veterinary students at the discretion of the Resident Advisor.
3. The resident will help conduct College continuing education seminars/laboratory exercises presented by the Ophthalmology group at the discretion of the Resident Advisor.
4. Preparation and delivery of didactic student lectures by ophthalmology residents will be at the discretion of the Residency Advisor and dependent on the interests of the candidate. Lectures will not exceed two didactic hours in the first year of the program, three hours in the second year of the program, and four hours in the third year of the program.

C. Research/Scholarly Activity

1. Seminar Program -- as per Departmental Program guidelines
2. As per ABVO Residency Committee guidelines, a minimum of monthly journal review sessions and histopathology rounds will be held with the faculty ophthalmologists and interested faculty. These sessions will be alternated with specific topic rounds and image recognition rounds, as preparation for the ABVO certifying examination.
3. During the first year of the program, an ophthalmic research project proposal must be written and submitted to a funding resource. This project will become the basis for the Graduate Degree Thesis requirement of the Graduate Program. If not immediately funded, the project must be redesigned under the guidance of the Resident's Graduate Committee and be resubmitted.
4. The research project for fulfilling the Graduate Degree Thesis requirement of the Graduate Program will be completed by the end of December of the residents third year in the program. The exact timing of the project will be contingent upon the timing of research funding and other factors related to the scope and design of the project. Writing of the Master's thesis and thesis defense will be done primarily in the third year of the program.
5. The resident must submit one manuscript on an ophthalmology related topic approved by the Residency or Graduate Advisor to a peer-reviewed journal during their residency. In addition, prior to successful completion of the residency program, the resident must submit to the Graduate Advisor a manuscript draft stemming from their graduate thesis work and suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Failure to do so will jeopardize successful completion of the residency and final certification of credentials for the ABVO Board Examination.
6. Three weeks of off-clinic time during the Residency Program may be taken by the resident to pursue an off-site rotation at another veterinary school, a medical school, or a private

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ophthalmology referral practice to pursue an area of ophthalmic subspecialty. The off-site rotation must be approved by the Residency Advisor.

7. The resident will attend the ACVO Basic Science course (or an equivalent course) during the program. Attempts to raise funds for attending this course will be made by the faculty ophthalmologists and the Department.
8. The resident will be expected to attend one national/regional ophthalmology meeting (preferably the annual ACVO scientific meeting) per year during the program. At least one presentation must be made at the annual ACVO scientific meeting during the residency. Attempts to raise funds for resident attendance at these meetings will be made by the faculty ophthalmologists and the Department.

D. Graduate Program

1. As per College Graduate Program.
2. By December of the first year of the program (for Residents starting in July), the resident will identify a Graduate Advisor (Major Professor) and a Graduate Committee and present an outlined plan for graduate study to the Graduate Committee, the Resident Advisor, and the Department Head for approval. The resident will submit a research proposal for funding, as described in Number V., C., 3. above.
3. The resident must complete all graduate program requirements, including graduate thesis defense prior to completion of the Residency. A manuscript resulting from the Resident's Graduate Thesis must be completed and submitted to the graduate advisor, in a format suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, prior to completion of the residency program. Failure to do so will result in the resident not receiving a Residency Certificate from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, thereby preventing the resident from taking the ABVO certification examination.

E. ABVO Certification Examination Eligibility

1. As per ABVO Residency Program guidelines
2. In accordance with ABVO Residency Program Guidelines, a case log and a surgical log will be maintained by the resident and reviewed/signed by the Residency Advisor semiannually.
3. The resident is expected to submit credentials to the ABVO for board certification eligibility by January 1 of the third year of the residency as outlined by ABVO Residency Program Guidelines.

VI. Certificate of Residency

A Certificate of Residency will be issued when the above program has been completed as described. Completion of the Master of Science degree is pre-requisite to the successful completion of the Residency Program and receipt of Certificate of Residency.