

INTERNSHIP IN VETERINARY CARDIOLOGY

Louisiana State University

School of Veterinary Medicine

Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Revised September 2016

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**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
IN
VETERINARY CARDIOLOGY**

**Louisiana State University
School of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Veterinary Teaching Hospital**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Internship in Veterinary Cardiology at the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) at Louisiana State University is designed to provide 1 year of training in the discipline of Veterinary Cardiology. The clinical facilities of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) will be the primary training site for this program. The training program will use Faculty from the Cardiology Service in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences as mentors.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1** To provide the opportunity to experience advanced training in Veterinary Cardiology.
- 2.2** To provide training and experience in clinical teaching.
- 2.3** To prepare the Intern for residency training and/or graduate study or entry in a high quality small animal practice.
- 2.4** To provide training and experience in clinical and basic cardiovascular research.
- 2.5** To provide experience in the preparation of scientific articles for publication through participation in the House Officer Rounds and House Officer Seminar Series.
- 2.6** To provide experience in the review and evaluation of the scientific literature associated with the discipline of Veterinary Cardiology through participation in the Cardiology and Medicine section journal clubs.

3.0 PREREQUISITES

- 3.1** Candidates must have a DVM or equivalent degree.

- 3.2 Candidates must have completed a rotating internship in medicine and surgery or its equivalent post-graduate experience.
- 3.3 Candidates should have successfully completed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) or its equivalent and a State Board Examination or its equivalent.

4.0 FACULTY MENTOR

- 4.1 The Intern will be assigned a Faculty Mentor who is a Veterinary Cardiologist in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. The responsibilities of the Mentor will include the direction and coordination of the clinical program and general counseling on issues associated with the Internship program.

5.0 CLINICAL PROGRAM

- 5.1 **Introduction.** Under the direct supervision of the Faculty Mentor, the major thrust of the Internship program is to provide advanced training in the delivery of veterinary cardiology. The Intern's independent case responsibility will increase as the program progresses.

- 5.2 **Clinical Training.**

- 5.2.1 In the 1-year program, there will be a total of 52 weeks (12 blocks) of clinic duty. The Intern will be trained in all pertinent aspects of the delivery of cardiology to veterinary patients. The training will include considerations of, but will not be limited to, techniques of cardiovascular examination, electrocardiography and Holter recording interpretation, thoracic radiograph interpretation, transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography, angiography, intravascular closure of patent ductus arteriosus, pulmonic valvuloplasty, pacemaker implantation and pacemaker programming, and medical management of cardiac patients. All of the Intern's work in cardiology will be under the supervision of a Faculty Cardiologist. Early in the Intern's program, direct Faculty supervision will be significant. It is anticipated that as the program progresses, the Intern will require less supervision and will ultimately be capable of independently delivering cardiology care, while still consulting with the faculty cardiologist.
- 5.2.2 The intern will have the opportunity to rotate through two half blocks in one of the following if available: Diagnostic Imaging, Small Animal Medicine, Equine Medicine, Pathology.

5.2.3 The Intern will participate in the tutorial instruction of Phase II students.

5.2.4 The Intern will participate in daily student rounds, Cardiology and Internal Medicine Section Journal clubs, and special topic conferences presented in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Other seminars in the SVM will be attended as scheduling permits.

5.3 Emergency Duty.

5.3.1 The Intern will participate in the emergency duty scheduled.

5.3.2 The intern will participate in emergency duty scheduled with other members of the Cardiology Service. This duty will commit the Intern to evening, weekend and holiday duty on a rotating schedule. Early in the Intern's program, Faculty supervision during emergency duty will be significant. A faculty Cardiologist will always be available for back up when the intern is on emergency duty.

5.3.3 The intern will share general emergency duty with other house officers. The rotation will commit the intern to a share of daytime weekend emergency duty.

6.0 HOUSE OFFICER ROUNDS AND SEMINAR PROGRAM

6.1 The House Officer Rounds are designed to provide the intern an opportunity to receive and present interesting, unusual, or difficult clinical case material utilizing a problem oriented approach to professional colleagues and to develop manuscripts for publication. The intern will participate with other VCS house officers on a rotating basis and will make at least 1 case presentation in House Officer Rounds during the year.

6.2 The House Officer Seminar series is designed to provide the intern with the opportunity to research and present scientific material to professional colleagues. One seminar will be presented during the year. The seminar will include a written manuscript with references in a form suitable for a publication.

6.3 A SVM faculty member who is a member of the Cardiology Service will be selected by the intern to mentor both case presentations and seminar preparation. Manuscripts submitted for publication will be reviewed, revised and coauthored by a SVM faculty member(s).

6.4 Attendance: The intern is required to attend and participate in the following: VMED 7001: VCS Seminar, Grand Rounds, House Officer

Rounds and, other seminars which are requirements of the Intern's home Department (Section).

6.4.1 VCS HO Rounds/Seminar Policy

- 6.4.1.1** HO attendance at all HO Rounds/Seminar sessions is required. HO attendance is required at only those rounds and seminars designated as VCS HO Rounds/Seminar sessions and that others occurring in the same time slot are not required by the House Officer Committee.
- 6.4.1.2** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session.
- 6.4.1.3** HO will be required to present an additional seminar if they have more than one unexcused absence during the program year.
- 6.4.1.4** All absences must be accounted for by completing a HO Leave Request Form and submitting it to the HOC chair.
- 6.4.1.5** Excused absences include the following: illness, annual leave, attendance or participation in a continuing education program, presentation of a student lecture, scheduled out-rotation or special service requirements per request of advisor. All other absences are unexcused unless deemed excusable by the HO advisor.

6.5 Evaluations of House Officer Rounds and House Officer Seminar presentations will be provided by those in attendance.

7.0 TEACHING PROGRAM

7.1 Throughout the Internship program, the Intern will function as a role model for students in the DVM program. The Intern will participate in the clinical instruction and evaluation of Phase II veterinary students assigned to the Cardiology Service.

8.0 HOUSE OFFICER COMMITTEE

8.1 The Committee is comprised of a representative of each House Officer program. It is responsible for the year-end review of each house officer's progress. This review is based on block evaluations received throughout the course of the program. The Committee grants a certificate to those who successfully complete the program.

- 8.2** All House Officers are required to complete an annual evaluation of their program with suggestions for improvement before continuation or completion of their program is granted.

9.0 EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS

- 9.1** Louisiana State University classifies interns and residents as University employees. As such, they (and their eligible dependents) qualify for the Louisiana State University Baton Rouge health insurance and benefits. The School of Veterinary Medicine provides malpractice insurance coverage. The salary (not a stipend) is published in the Directory of Internships and Residencies as published by the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians (www.virmp.org). Salary is payable in monthly increments via direct deposit. Retirement contributions are required and withheld from each paycheck. No social security tax is withheld. Federal and state income tax is withheld. The employee may be eligible to petition the IRS for exemption from federal tax on part of his/her salary.
- 9.2** The Veterinary Teaching Hospital operates year round. House officers will share emergency duty with other house officers within their specialty. House Officers will also share evening, weekend and holiday duty on a scheduled basis.
- 9.3** The University offers accrual of annual time off following either the University accrual rate (14 hours/month with a maximum accumulation of 176 hours) or the Civil Service Schedule rate (8 hours/month with no maximum accumulation). Sick time off accrual is 8 hours/month. All time off, except for illness and emergencies, should be requested and approved 30 days in advance. Time off requests must be entered into Workday (via the employee's MyLSU account) by the employee and approved by the supervisor before time off will be granted. Annual time off will be granted on an individual basis taking into account the reason for the requested absence and the needs of the service and hospital. Annual time off for personal business is to be taken during elective or research blocks. Emergency absence such as for illness or a death in the immediate family should be brought to the attention of the clinician to whom the House Officer is assigned as soon as the House Officer learns that he/she will be absent. The official request should be entered into Workday upon the House Officer's return. Except in unusual circumstances, approval will not be granted for time off during the final month of the program.

10.0 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- 10.1** The Intern will receive a Block Performance Evaluation using E-Value software to provide continual evaluation of his/her progress within the

program.

10.2 The Intern is to meet with his/her Advisor at the beginning of each block to report accomplishments and plans.

10.3 The Faculty Cardiologists will provide a quarterly written and verbal performance critique. The critique will address:

10.3.1 *Professional ability*: including theoretical knowledge and clinical application of that knowledge, clinical skills, tutorial skills, and scholarly activity.

10.3.2 *Hospital service*: communication skills, record keeping, quality of emergency duty, adherence to VTH protocol, patient care.

10.3.3 *Personal characteristics*: to include responsibility, initiation, enthusiasm, interaction with faculty, staff and students, deportment and leadership.

11.0 POST INTERNSHIP STUDY

11.1 If the intern is considering a residency or graduate program following completion of the internship, it is suggested that he/she consult with relevant faculty to maximize preparation for that program.

12.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

12.1 Candidates may apply for the Internship in Veterinary Cardiology by submitting:

- 1) A standard Internship application form through www.virmp.org.
- 2) A statement of Internship objectives and career goals.
- 3) Official academic transcripts.
- 4) A minimum of three letters of reference from individuals currently familiar with the applicant's professional status.

13.0 APPENDICES

13.1 House Officer Rounds Evaluation Form

House Officer: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator: _____

	<u>Evaluation</u> E=Excellent G=Good N=Needs Improvement	<u>Comments</u>
Case Selection		
Complexity of case		
Appropriate follow-up		
Content		
Format of presentation		
Discussion		
Conclusions		
Use of problem-oriented approach		
Delivery		
Clarity of speech		
Rate of delivery		
Effectiveness of Visual Presentation		
Use of visual aids		
Body language and enthusiasm		
Questions handled appropriately		

Additional Comments: _____

13.2 VCS Seminar Evaluation Form

Presenter: _____ Date: _____

Audience: _____

Title/Topic: _____

Evaluation Criteria:

	Points	Evaluation
Definition of subject: introduction, importance, clinical significance	0-5	
Organization	0-10	
Quality of material	0-10	
Presence: speaking ability		
Clarity	0-10	
Rate of delivery	0-10	
Enthusiasm, expressiveness	0-10	
Support Materials		
Handouts, manuscript	0-15	
Visual aids	0-5	
Appropriate Summary	0-5	
Presentation consistent with audience level	0-10	
Questions/discussion handled appropriately	0-10	
	Total	

Comments:

Evaluator: _____

13.3 House Officer Leave Request

I am requesting scheduled leave approval for the following reasons:
(Indicate reason and list the dates.)

1. To attend the meeting listed below:

2. To attend to personal activities (illness, family emergency, vacation).

3. To attend to official activities (out rotations, special circumstance requirements).

INTERN	DATE
--------	------

This request has been approved by the following individuals:

INTERN MENTOR	DATE
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BLOCK MENTOR	DATE
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CHAIRMAN OF THE HOC	DATE
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13.4 House Officer Block Evaluation Form (through E*Value)

House Officer Evaluation Form in E-Value

Needs Improvement
Satisfactory
Good
Excellent
Not Applicable

Professional Ability					
Theoretical Knowledge					
Knowledge Application					
Skills					
Patient Care					
Thoroughness					

Individual Characteristics					
Communication with clinicians					
Communication with students					
Communication with staff					
Independent study & initiative					
Awareness of current literature					
Contribution to student education					
Performance under stress					
Ability to accept criticism					
Organizational skills					
Ability to work in a team					
Reliability					
Motivation					
Attendance at seminars & rounds					
Presentation at seminars & rounds					
Ability to make independent decisions					

Hospital Service					
Completion of duties					
Quality of work					
Emergency services duty					
Communication with veterinarians					
Client communication					
Referral letters & record keeping					
Acceptance of service & case responsibility					
Adherence to VTH&C protocol					

Strengths:
Areas for Improvement: