



Equine Internship Program

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Equitom Equine Hospital

Paalstraat 8, 3560 Meldert, Belgium

Tel: 0032/13552006

Email: info@equitom.be

Website: www.equitom.be

Program supervisors:

Surgery: *Dr. Tom Mariën*

Dr. Jeroen Declercq DVM, PhD, Dipl. ECVS

Julien Racine DVM, Dipl. ECVS

Internal medicine: *Simona Cerri DVM, MSc, res ECEIM*

Medical Imaging: *Zoë Joostens DVM, MSc, Dipl. ECVDI-LA*

Hospitalisation: *Shady Taghizadeh DVM*

Orthopaedics: *Lothar Vanslambrouck DVM*

The internship at Equitom Equine Hospital consists of a one year 'rotating' internship type where the interns rotate on a weekly basis through the different departments under direct supervision of the head of the department. The program focuses on providing clinical training to recently graduated veterinarians. The intern-team currently consists of eight newly graduated veterinarians. The starting dates are spread throughout the year. Before the official starting date, the new intern is asked to work for one week alongside the colleague he or she is replacing to ease the new intern's adaptation.

Every new intern forms a team with a 'senior' intern for 'on call' duties. The 'senior' intern is at the end of his or her internship and should have achieved the required competences and milestones.

Education:

Each intern receives a list of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) they should be able to perform at the end of the year. Their competences and progress are analysed closely and evaluated during regular feedback moments.

List of EPA's at Equitom Equine Hospital based on the Veterinary Internship Guidelines' published by the AAVMC in 2018:

- Performs a complete examination of an admitted patient (complete anamnesis, clinical examination)
- Makes a complete list of differential diagnosis
- Creates an adequate diagnostic plan taking into account clients resources and patient status
- Gathers information of performed examinations and creates a diagnosis
- Creates a treatment plan based on the horses needs and client resources
- Communicates effectively and professionally with team members, clients and referral veterinarians
- Amends treatment plans of a hospitalised patient based on patient information and best practice
- Maintains accurate, timely medical records
- Is able to perform a complete colic 'work-up' (anamnesis, clinical examination, interpretation of blood results, rectal palpation, abdominal ultrasonography, abdominocentesis, placing a long term intra-venous catheter ('over the wire'/MILA), nasogastric tube placement, client communication and decision making)
- Is able to perform an acute lameness work up (anamnesis, clinical examination (inspection and palpation), radiography, ultrasonography, client communication)
- Is able to perform first aid in life threatening situations. Can place an emergency cast/ splint/ Robert-Jones bandage, perform a tracheotomy,...
- Is able to handle basic wounds/lacerations
- Is able to perform a basic orthopaedic examination

In addition to the list of EPA's there are multiple scientific and clinical educational activities organised regularly. Equitom Equine Hospital has a regular journal club where recent articles are discussed with the clinicians. Every other week two interns prepare a presentation on a relevant topic of choice (recent case, interesting publication, ...). Specific practical and theoretical classes and labs are offered in surgery (basic wound care, castration, emergency tracheotomy), imaging (radiography, ultrasonography and basic advanced imaging), dentistry, ophthalmology, internal medicine (neonatal critical care, anaesthesia of the critical patient, blood sample analysis), orthopaedics (anatomy, local nerve blocks). Interns rotating in hospitalisation and internal medicine departments are responsible for clinical rounds and report directly to their respective senior veterinarian.

Every intern rotates through the different departments (surgery, hospitalisation, internal medicine, medical imaging, orthopaedics, night shift and 'flying') on a weekly basis.

- **Surgery:**

The intern is usually responsible for anaesthesia. He or she performs the pre-anaesthetic examination, anaesthesia and rope assisted recovery of the patient. The interns also receive training in basic surgical techniques and emergency care during afore mentioned journal clubs and skill labs. The interns are also allowed to scrub into surgery during basic surgical procedures and during colic surgery. They learn to analyse pre-surgical radiographs and ultrasounds.

- **Hospitalisation:**

The intern assists the senior veterinarian during consultations, to create and perform treatment plans, patient follow up and to communicate with owners. The intern is responsible for the round and briefs Dr. Taghizadeh every morning. The interns gain important practical skills throughout the year (bandage placement, wound care, regional perfusion, ozone (O₃) therapy, ...).

- **Internal medicine:**

The intern is responsible for rounds (clinical assessment of patients) and briefs Dr. Cerri every morning. The intern assists in performs treatments of hospitalised patients, assists the senior veterinarians during consultations/emergencies and helps the senior veterinarian with reports and client communication.

- **Medical imaging:**

The intern is responsible for patient preparation before scintigraphy, MRI and CT and performs anaesthesia for CT examinations. Basic education in advanced imaging and clinical relevance is provided.

- **Orthopaedics:**

The intern is responsible for hospitalised patients in rehabilitation (assisted by the veterinary nurse) and assists the clinicians during lameness examinations. The intern takes the anamnesis and performs the first clinical examination.

- **Night-shift:**

The intern on night shift is checking all hospitalised patients during the night. He or she is assisted by a night guard and reports directly to the senior veterinarian on call. In case of emergency the 'night intern' is joined by the intern on 'support' duty and , when needed, by a third intern. The emergency team always consists of an experienced intern paired with a new intern. The night shift is a seven day shift and the intern is free during daytime.

- **Flying 1 and 2:**

Two interns are 'flying'. They help out the department needing help. They are allowed to study whenever possible and are asked to prepare the presentation for the journal club.

'On call' schedules:

The intern on first call is the 'night intern'. He or she is responsible (supervised by the senior veterinarian on call) for the admitted emergency and is assisted by the second and, if necessary, the third intern on call. He or she communicates with the senior clinician, suggests a diagnostic plan to the superior, takes charge of the emergency and communicates with the client together with the clinician on call. At the start of the internship, a new intern is 'second on call' for 10 days to learn how to work up emergency cases.

Work Conditions:

Intern accommodation is provided on-site (private room with individual bathroom and mutual kitchen). Every intern is allowed to leave early once a week to allow for social activities. Every intern is allowed to take up 15 days off (payed) during their year. This is possible after approval of the department head and the hospital manager. The interns are 'on call' once every three days (second or third on call) and work every other weekend..

Internship Program Performance:

Interns are formally evaluated on a three month basis and informally at the end of every rotation. The progress towards achieving the learning objectives (EPA's), is assessed in a group conversation with the internship supervisor and the intern. When EPA's are met, the intern receives a certificate of internship completion.

How to apply?

- An externship at Equitom Equine Hospital is advised for successful application
- Every candidate is asked to send the following documents:
 - Letter of intent
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - Diploma of Veterinary Medicine (except for final year students)
 - Reference letter
- English is the primary language, but knowledge of Dutch and/or French is an asset