



UCDVH Small Animal Internal Medicine Summer Externship (2019)

Small Animal Internal Medicine Externship Goals

- Development of handling and physical examination skills of small animals
- Advancement of problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Enhancement of diagnostic and differential diagnosis skills
- Increased exposure to diagnostic and practical techniques
- Experience in the management of a variety of complicated medical cases, including intensive care
- Use of isolation facilities and bio-security principles in a busy hospital

Students working within Small Animal Internal Medicine are encouraged, under direct supervision, to take responsibility for cases and be involved in all aspects of case management.

Responsibilities

The basic responsibilities of an Extern are similar to those of an Intern but under direct supervision of the hospital clinicians. There will be opportunities to evaluate and assist in the treatment of hospitalised cases, as well as assisting in the admission and assessment of out-patient and emergency cases. Under supervision, the Extern will be able to administer oral, intravenous, intramuscular and subcutaneous medications, draw blood for routine blood work, monitor intensive care cases, administer fluids and prepare animals for clinical procedures.

Morning and afternoon treatments consist of physical examinations and medication administration. Externs are expected to be involved in scheduled after-hours treatments.

1. Active Learning

- To get the most out of your externship, it is important to get involved. Ask relevant questions, investigate and study the literature around your cases and be prepared for discussion with senior clinicians.
- Know your limitations and do not carry out anything that you do not feel comfortable with.
- Decide on your learning objectives before you start. Discuss these with relevant staff and ensure you have time to complete them before you leave.

2. Animal care and case management

- Daily care of your assigned cases is your responsibility under the direction of an assigned clinician.

- Treat every single one of your cases as if you were the sole person responsible for it – do not rely on the clinicians to pick up problems but do a thorough complete physical examination on all your cases in the hospital at least twice daily, try to make your own diagnostic and treatment plan to discuss with the clinicians and be active in the care of the case.
- Do not enact any treatment or diagnostic procedure without direction from the clinician.
- You are responsible for all treatments on your cases from 8.00 am until 5.00 pm – this includes administration of medication (under supervision), examinations, blood draws, catheter flushes, preparing and hanging of intravenous fluids etc. If you are busy elsewhere during these hours, it is your responsibility to ascertain that someone else is taking care of your case for you.

3. Case Admission

- Take a full history.
- Complete a thorough physical examination (including body weight and body condition).
- Take an active part in diagnostic work-up and treatment planning for the case.
- Ensure all test results are printed and included in the case file.

4. Hospital Rounds

- Each morning between 9.00 and 10.00 am (exact time varies depending on day of week) board rounds are held to update on cases in the hospital and schedule their diagnostic/treatment plan. Again, in the late afternoon around 4 pm, board rounds are held to discuss important findings of the day and to make a plan for overnight care.

5. Formal activities

- Twice weekly (9 am Tuesday and 8.30 am Thursday) formal Resident rounds are held for an hour where cases are presented and discussed with Senior Clinicians.
- On Wednesday at 8.30 am, Resident Seminars are held over 30 minutes where Residents present short talks on topics of their choice.
- On Friday morning at 8.30 am journal club is held where original and review articles are critiqued
- On the last Friday of every month, a visiting Cardiology Diplomate sees cases and reviews ultrasound images.

How to apply

Externships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. To get the most out of your externship, a minimum duration of two consecutive weeks is suggested but a maximum of four weeks is allowed. If you cover two weeks you will start at 9 am on the first Monday and finish at 5 pm on the last Friday. You will be expected, but not obliged, to take part in weekend care between your two weeks. Please check the available dates below and submit your choice of dates via email. If available, the space will be reserved, and you will receive a confirmation.

To qualify for this Small Animal Internal Medicine externship, you must:

- be either a Resident, Intern or other postgraduate veterinarian (priority assigned in this order).
- you must also have good fluency in both written and spoken English.

You will be expected to have read the relevant literature regarding protocols and infection control within the UCD Veterinary Hospital before you start.

This externship is not available to undergraduate students.

Please include a current curriculum vitae and a statement of pertinent experience in your email application. To apply please email vet.externships@ucd.ie, with 'SAIM Externship Application' in the subject line.

You will get confirmation of the clinical experience, but no formal grades will apply. You will be expected to arrange travel and accommodation yourself and must ensure that you carry appropriate insurance.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email vet.externships@ucd.ie

Dates available in 2019:

- Monday 20 May to Friday 2 August 2019 (max 4 weeks per externship)

We look forward to working with you!