



University College Dublin  
UCD Veterinary Hospital

## UCDVH Small Animal Surgery Summer Externship

### Small Animal Surgery Externship Goals

- Development of skills in patient handling and restraint, general physical examination, orthopaedic examination including lameness evaluation, and neurologic examination in small animals
- Development of basic problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Development of diagnostic skills
- Exposure to the management of a variety of small animal surgical cases including intensive care
- Exposure to specialist level surgical procedures and techniques
- Use of isolation facilities and bio-security principles (case-dependent)

Students working within the Small Animal Surgery service are encouraged to take responsibility for their own cases and should be involved in all aspects of case management.

### Responsibilities

The basic responsibilities of an extern is the same as a final year UCD veterinary student and consists of evaluating and treating hospitalised cases as well as assisting in the admission and evaluation of out-patient and emergency cases. Under the supervision of an Intern, 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 patients for clinical procedures.

Morning and afternoon treatments consist of physical examinations and medication administration. Externs are scheduled for after-hours treatments and emergency service.

#### 1. Active learning

- Get involved – ask questions – make the most of your externship

#### 2. Patient care and case management

- Daily care of your assigned cases is your responsibility under the direction of a 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 exam 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 your case's care.
- Do not enact any treatment or diagnostic procedure without direction from the clinician.
- You are responsible for all treatments on your cases from 08:00 until 18:00 – this includes administration of medication (under supervision of interns or residents where necessary), examinations, blood draws, catheter flushes, preparing and hanging of intravenous fluids (with an intern/resident) etc. If you are busy in surgery during these hours, it is your responsibility to ascertain that one of your colleagues is taking care of your patients for you!

### **3. Patient Admission**

- Take a history or actively participate in the initial history-taking and consultation with a SAS clinician.
- Complete a thorough physical exam under the direct supervision of a SAS clinician.
- Complete an orthopaedic or neurologic exam if indicated under the direct supervision of a SAS clinician.
- Take an active part in the patient's diagnostic work-up and treatment planning.

### **4. Hospital Rounds**

- Each morning between 07:30 and 08:00, informal cage-side rounds on an individual basis are held with the SAS intern, SAS resident, and/or senior SAS clinician(s) to discuss the cases in the hospital and their diagnostic/treatment plans for the day. Again, in the late afternoon around 17:00, formal cage-side rounds with the entire student group plus all involved SAS clinician(s) are held to discuss important findings of the day and plan for overnight and the following day's care.

### **5. Surgery**

- In most cases, where the situation permits, you will have the opportunity to scrub into surgeries performed on your patients.
- Responsibilities include assistance in preparation of the surgical patient, assisting in induction, surgical preparation, intra-operative assistance, and post-operative monitoring.

## **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 mandatory. A week's Externship will run from 08:00 Monday morning to 08:00 on the following Monday which would cover on-call duties. 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 the externship, you must:

- be a veterinary student in your final year of study
- you must also have good fluency in both written and spoken English.

This externship is not open to:

- Graduated veterinarians
- UCD undergraduate MVB 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](mailto:vet.externships@ucd.ie)

You will get confirmation of the clinical experience but no formal grades.

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](mailto:vet.externships@ucd.ie)

**Dates available 2020:**

Monday, 27 April to Sunday 28 June 2020 (9 weeks)

We look forward to working with you!