

VMCVM Ophthalmology Internship Supplement

I. Introduction and Objectives of Ophthalmology Specialty Internship

The goal of the ophthalmology internship program is to provide a mentored experience in all aspects of clinical veterinary ophthalmology, with priorities to include fostering ophthalmic diagnostic skills, ophthalmic surgical skills and appropriate case management approaches in preparation for subsequent application to ABVO ophthalmology residency training programs. Additional goals include strengthening clinical reasoning and communication skills and experience in ophthalmic clinical research.

The ophthalmology intern will participate in all clinical activities of the ophthalmology service, including after hours and weekend ophthalmology emergency duty. The intern will assume small and large animal patient care responsibilities under the supervision of an ophthalmology faculty member, with additional duties to include timely client and referring veterinarian communications and assisting in instruction of veterinary medical students. Participation in weekly ophthalmology resident rounds (journal club, image recognition, topic rounds, histopathology) is expected, as is participation in the house officer seminar program.

Ophthalmology intern training is the direct responsibility of the ophthalmologists within the Ophthalmology Service and, to a lesser degree, all faculty in the Departments of Small Animal Clinical Sciences and Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

Additional objective as per Departmental Program:

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

II. Prerequisites

DVM degree or its equivalent

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

Candidates should be dedicated to the pursuit of entering an ABVO Residency Training Program.

III. Intern Advisor

An Intern Advisor will be appointed who will be responsible for direction and coordination of clinical duties, teaching assignments, advice on research (concepts, funding, and implementation), publications, preparation for ABVO residency application and counseling. Additional responsibilities include monitoring development, continuity, and progress of the internship activities described herein. The intern advisor is responsible for the intern's clinical schedule.

IV. Specialty Internship Program

A. Clinical Program

1. Other than personal leave (described below) the ophthalmology intern will be on clinic duty with the ophthalmology service. While on clinics, the ophthalmology intern will receive both

VMCVM Ophthalmology Internship Supplement

referral and local ophthalmology cases for all species and will have primary case responsibility for all small animal cases. Large animal primary case responsibility will be shared with appropriate large animal house officers and/or faculty. Ophthalmology faculty clinicians (or chief residents, when applicable) working with the resident will supervise all referral cases seen by the intern. Interns will require a supervising clinician's approval for all major procedures. If subspecialty (e.g. internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, etc.) consultation is deemed necessary, approval from the supervising senior clinician is required prior to asking for consultation. Interns will be responsible for communication with referring veterinarians and follow-up communications with clients. Documentation of communication 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 referral letters.

2. Ophthalmology interns and 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 interns may serve as backup for ophthalmologic emergencies seen by the VTH ER service. Ophthalmology interns will be backed up on emergency referrals and local cases by the ophthalmology faculty clinician and/or residents on clinic duty.
3. Annual leave. Annual leave must be approved by a faculty member who is on duty when the leave will be taken.
4. Appropriate professional appearance is mandatory whenever client contact is possible.
5. A professional attitude towards students, staff, and faculty is expected at all times.

B. Teaching

1. Ophthalmology interns are expected to contribute to the teaching of students in the Ophthalmology Clerkship through interaction in the examination room, treatment room, and surgery suite and are expected to review and evaluate all student records in a timely manner. Student rounds may be conducted by the intern at the discretion of the ophthalmologist on clinic duty.
2. Ophthalmology interns will participate in all ophthalmic diagnostic and surgery laboratory exercises for veterinary students.

C. Research/Scholarly Activity

1. House officer Seminar Program - as per Departmental Program guidelines
2. Weekly ophthalmology rounds, to include journal review, topic rounds, image recognition rounds and histopathology rounds will be held with residents and faculty ophthalmologists.
3. Pursuit of an ophthalmic research project during the internship is encouraged.
4. Three weeks of off-clinic time during the Internship Program may be taken to pursue an off-site rotation at another veterinary school, a medical school, or a private ophthalmology referral practice to pursue an area of ophthalmic subspecialty. Off-site rotations must be approved by the Internship Advisor.

VMCVM Ophthalmology Internship Supplement

V. Certificate of Internship

A Certificate of Ophthalmology Specialty Internship completion will be issued when the above program has been completed as described. Completion of the Master of Science degree is prerequisite to the successful completion of the Residency Program and receipt of a Certificate of Residency.

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