

# Equine Internship Ballarat Veterinary Practice 2012/2013

This overview has been put together using the Veterinary Surgeons Award 2001 as the reference. All material in the agreement meets the standards set out in that award for internship programs.

## Goals of Internship

1. Become proficient at radiology techniques and interpretation
2. Become skilled at gaseous and intravenous anaesthesia of equines.
3. Become confident at recognising and planning diagnostic solutions for equine lameness.
4. Become confident with pre and post operative management of a range of equine surgical conditions
5. Become proficient at providing race-day veterinary services to the local thoroughbred and standardbred tracks
6. Be exposed to the basics of equine reproduction.
7. Be exposed to and understand scintigraphy in equine practice
8. Meeting on a regular basis with the surgeons to assess progress and any special needs that arise throughout the internship.
9. Publish a case report in the Australian Veterinary Journal or Equine Veterinarians Australia Journal

## Expectations

The expectation of the Ballarat Veterinary Practice is that the intern will dedicate themselves to the internship program in a diligent and committed manner. It is the responsibility of the intern to be registered in Victoria as a Veterinary Surgeon.

**The intern will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and be aware of client confidentiality at all times.** *Professional behaviour refers not only to how the intern interacts with staff at the hospital but also in the public arena. The public arena includes officiating at race meetings and in general life outside the clinic.*

The intern should expect a 12 month intensive post graduation learning arena where there is an opportunity to enhance theory already in place and achieve a high level of practical skills.

## Required Practice Duties and Responsibilities of the Intern

1. The intern will work 11 days of every 14 day period.
2. Mondays through Fridays work starts at 7.30am. The goal is for all in house **medical treatments to take place between 7.30 and 8.30am.** A roster is set up between the 4 interns so that 2 are available for any late night treatments needed at the clinic. It is expected an intern will not enter a stall without assistance when assessing and treating horses after hours.

2. **Weekends** – You will work every second weekend as an “Intern Weekend” or “Primary Field Vet Assistant”. Usual hours would be from 8am until finished in the mornings and returning for evening treatments. When the hospital is full weekend work can be a full day but this is not the norm

3. On the weekends you are not working, you will have the Saturday, Sunday and either a Friday, Monday or Tuesday off.

5. There are 4 rotations through the hospital. These include rotations with each surgeon, an equine ambulatory rotation and also anaesthesia rotation. Depending timing and arrival of new interns you may have more than one anaesthesia rotation per year.

6. A roster will be set up to share the 40 trotting meetings and 30 galloping meetings held in Ballarat each year. All associate veterinarians are included in this roster.

## **Clinical Duties**

### **1. *In-house Case Management – on a daily basis.***

The interns will be responsible for preparation and administration of all morning and afternoon treatments and assessment of horses in the hospital. A case treatment plan will be formulated with the supervising clinician at the time the horse arrives in the hospital and the intern will be expected to follow this plan and report to the supervising clinician daily about all cases. It would be expected that as the intern progresses, decision making on case management becomes responsibility of the intern for routine cases. The intern would be expected to know the current treatment protocol and TPR parameters and condition of all animals in the clinic under their direct care at all times. As often interns help each other with different surgeons cases, a general understanding of all cases not directly under your care is also expected.

### **2. *Anaesthesia***

The anaesthesia rotation would see the intern responsible for all anaesthesia in the clinic for a 6-8 week period. The intern will be fully responsible for set up, pre anaesthetic assessment, anaesthesia and post anaesthesia management of horses and equipment used in this process. When on the anaesthesia rotation the intern would still be part of the morning and afternoon treatment process.

### **4. *After hours duties.***

You will be required to come back after hours to check any critical patients and perform any late night medications – another intern or nurse is available for assistance for night treatments if necessary. The hospital policy is for no night treatments to be performed alone.

There may be referrals from outside or within the practice. You will not have to handle the incoming calls, the primary vet on “First Call” will handle that communication and then call you if any are coming into the hospital. Your role when these “referrals” arrive will be to assess the animal, collect the relevant history, hospitalise, and treat the animal if you feel confident and if not, call for the primary clinician or surgeon.

A sense of fairness will apply where if the intern has an “all night” colic or excessive night work, the above duties will be modified by mutual agreement.

## **Access to Observation and Study**

On the days where the intern is not rostered on anaesthesia, after completion of daily treatment rounds, the intern will act as assistant for the supervising clinician (Fulton, Anderson). It is during this time that structured training and supervision will take place. Skill for taking and interpreting radiographs and ultrasound images will be taught. Lameness diagnosis and diagnostic tests would also be taught here. Also it would be expected that the intern would assist in several surgical procedures to learn basic surgical skills. As part of the formal teaching the intern will be given reading and research projects to extend case understanding. This reading will be partly completed during clinic time but also at home. Access to the clinic library is available but books cannot be taken home.

### **Conference Leave.**

If a suitable conference is available the practice will pay the registration fee for this. Single day seminars or visits to other clinics may also make up these 5 days that are allowed.

## **Remuneration Package**

**The intern will be employed as per the Veterinary Surgeons Award. The annual rate is \$49,500 all inclusive which is above award rates for first year graduates.**

The additional component of the salary over the award covers time involved for return trips to the clinic for after hours work and performing the after hours duties as set out above.

## **Getting Started:**

### **Month 1:**

**Hospital orientation, anaesthesia crash course.** During this time you will be under the supervision of several clinicians to introduce you to the clinic. The goal in the first month is to become familiar with all equipment, the storage of drugs and materials at the clinic, the daily treatment protocol as to how we expect drugs to be administered, bandages changed, cases prepared for surgery, catheter insertion etc. operation of the radiography, scintigraphy and ultrasound equipment. This orientation could take 2-4-6 weeks depending on a number of variables.

### **Month 2 Onwards**

Once you have established yourself within the clinic we plan for you to be solely responsible for preparation and delivery of morning and evening treatments to all in patients under your supervising surgeons care. An intern, nurse or stable attendant will always be available to help with this. We want to aim that all treatments are performed between 7.30 and 8.30am in the mornings and between 5 and 6pm in the evenings. You will be responsible to fill in a treatment plan sheet for all

hospitalised cases in consultation with the supervising clinician and ensure these are carried through. Before your 3 days off every second week we would expect you have treatments planned, written up and discussed with the interns on call and organised for the 3 days you will be away. Also it will be your responsibility to check the after hours emergency anaesthesia roster to make sure there are sufficient people available.

You will spend rotations of 6-8 weeks at a time under the supervision of Dr Anderson and Dr Fulton. The ambulatory rotation will involve travelling with other equine field vets and depending on progression of the intern, undertaking primary field visits on your own. The other rotation will be anaesthesia which is self explanatory. As surgeons assistant you would be expected to be involved in history taking and talking to referring vets and owners prior to cases being admitted to the clinic and assessment of cases on arrival at the clinic. Also preparation of the surgical theatre with respect to instrument layout and draping of horses as well as direct surgical assistance. Post operative surgery reports and client communication as directed by the Dr Fulton or Anderson is also part of the interns responsibility. Preparation of discharge instructions and letters to referring veterinarians is also the intern's responsibility but is always checked by the surgeon prior to delivery.

## **REVIEWS**

We anticipate major review sessions every 3 months where we review your performance and you will have the opportunity to give input as to how any part of your program should change.

## **TERMINATION OF INTERNSHIP**

The practice retains the right to instantly dismiss the intern if the intern arrives at work under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Sick leave is as per the Veterinary Surgeons Award 2001.