

Internship at the Clinical Unit of Internal Medicine for Small Animals

Point of Contact

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Prerequisites

The following skills and knowledge are required prior to starting the internship:

- Principles of basic and supplementary clinical examination procedures
- Principles of internal medicine and clinical pathology for small animal practise
- Interns are advised to have specialized knowledge prior to starting their internships

Educational Objectives

(relative to prior knowledge of the subject matter)

- Acquiring practical skills (e.g., clinical examinations, placing of venous access devices, calculation of dosages etc.)
- Learning the methodical workup of a patient, along with preparing a list of issues and a differential diagnosis and developing a diagnostic and therapeutic plan

Specific Assignments/Tasks

Interns are expected to possess the following skills and knowledge prior to starting the internship:

- General clinical examination procedures and specialized examinations of patients
- Supervised diagnostic workup of patients
- Preparation and ranking of presumptive and differential diagnoses, interpretation of test results, planning and administering therapeutic measures in the framework of written SOAPs (Subjective – Objective – Assessment – Plan)
- Performing supplemental diagnostic procedures and administering therapeutic measures on patients as instructed by an assistant, including: venous catheter, sample collection (FNAB, biopsy) and medication (oral, subcutaneous, intramuscular and intravenous) etc.

- Patient monitoring (e.g., checking infusions, checking for seizures, walking patients and monitoring urine and faeces, feeding – in each case, after discussion and reaching consensus with personnel responsible for care)
- Independent execution of laboratory tasks (blood chemistry, haematology, urinalysis, preparation of cytological specimens etc.)
- Supporting care personnel in the performance of their morning duties (taking patients for walks and collecting urine and faeces, cleaning of cages etc.)
- Studying the scientific literature and, if necessary, performing searches of the literature in the library

Pertinent Guidelines

- Specific rules of conduct and disinfection measures to be employed in cases of suspected epidemic disease may be found in the applicable SOPs.

Monitoring/Documentation of Activities

Daily feedback about the work and weekly evaluation of knowledge, skills and competencies.

In the framework of the internship, interns will work through all of the clinical examinations listed in the Annex on page 5. The supervising assistant must sign off on each task performed. The internship can only be certified once the entire list has been completed.

Working hours and duration of internship

The internship lasts at least one month.

Reporting for duty

On the first Monday of the internship, at 8 a.m., interns are asked to report to the Secretariat (see “Point of Contact”).

If the first day of the internship period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the actual start of the internship will be at 8 a.m. on the first regular weekday following the weekend or holiday.

Interns will be issued the following:

- Name tag
- A pre-printed “duty card” (each week of duty and any night and weekend shifts must be recorded and confirmed)
- Locker key (a security deposit of 20 euros must be paid; this will be refunded when the key is returned)

Afterwards, interns will be taken on a tour to familiarize them with the premises, hygienic requirements and basic workflows at the Clinic.

Working hours

Weekdays:

Core working hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Daily/weekly schedule:

- 8 a.m.: Morning rounds (Mon-Fri: Library of the Unit, Building KB; Sat-Sun: Building KC)
- 12 noon: Lunchtime conference (Building KC)
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Shift change (Building KC)
- 7 p.m.: Evening rounds (Building KC)

After-hours duty:

- Night duty: 4 p.m. – 8:30 a.m. the next morning
- Weekend duty: 8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. the next day (Saturday, Sunday or holiday)

The allocation of night and weekend duty should be entered in advance on the list designated for intern night duty.

All interns must complete 6 night shifts per month and 2 weekend shifts per month during the course of their internships.

The intern on night duty needs to register with the assistant on duty at 4 p.m., as well as be present for the shift change at 7 p.m. The tasks to be performed in the course of duty are to be agreed upon with the veterinarian on duty (DIC, Doctor In Charge) at 4 p.m. and performed together with student helpers or the on-duty assistant according to the evening rounds schedule (evening rounds: 7 p.m.).

For every weekend duty shift, interns earn a day off, which should also be recorded on the night duty list for interns.

On-call duty:

- No on-call duty

Clothing/Equipment

Required clothing

(Due to the hygiene regulations in effect, interns need to always wear clean work clothes and take care to regularly disinfect hands and objects. It is a requirement that clothing must be changed before and after working hours.)

- White trousers
- White coat or white top (not sleeveless)
- Non-slip, sturdy shoes (closed shoes, no sandals)

Required equipment

- Stethoscope
- Watch
- Notepad/pen
- Small scissors

Other

Miscellaneous

- It goes without saying that – in the context of the hygiene regulations – any waste generated in the course of Clinic work will be disposed of independently by the intern according to the waste separation systems set up for this purpose.

Recommended reading

- Ettinger S.J., Feldmann E.C., Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine, 7th Edition, W.B.Saunders, 2009
- Nelson R.W.; Couto C.G., Small animal internal medicine, 4th Edition, Mosby, 2008
- DiBartola S.P., Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Disorders in Small Animal Practice, 4th Edition, Saunders, 2011
- Plumb D., Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook, 7th Edition, Blackwell, 2011

Annex

Intern Name:	Matriculation number:	
Educational Objectives Documented	Signature	Date
Clinical Examination including Documentation 1		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 2		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 3		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 4		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 5		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 6		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 7		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 8		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 9		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 10		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 11		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 12		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 13		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 14		
Clinical Examination including Documentation 15		
Venipuncture 1		
Venipuncture 2		
Venipuncture 3		
Venipuncture 4		
Venipuncture 5		
Venous catheter 1		
Venous catheter 2		
Blood analysis (Smear, Hk, TP) 1		
Blood analysis (Smear, Hk, TP) 2		
Blood analysis (Smear, Hk, TP) 3		
Urinalysis 1		
Urinalysis 2		
Urinalysis 3		
Faecal examination 1		
Faecal examination 2		