Internship Program 2020

Full Service Referral and Primary Care Hospital

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Texas Equine Hospital - Internship Program

Texas Equine Hospital is an exclusively equine practice. We primarily focus on sports medicine (lameness diagnosis and treatment) and surgery (orthopedic and soft tissue), although, we are a full-service facility and treat a wide range of primary care cases as well. The doctors saw 14,300 horses in 2019. The cases they see encompass a variety of disciplines including western performance, rodeo, racing, dressage, hunter/jumper, pleasure, polo, endurance and small breeding farms. The caseload is composed of lamenesses, orthopedic and soft tissue injuries, colics, reproductive cases, neurologic problems, foal critical care, and preventative health maintenance. The ambulatory portion of the practice involves several large western performance barns, numerous smaller operations, and individually owned horses.

Our services include routine sports medicine and performance evaluations. In some cases we utilize the state of the art Lameness Locator System by Equinosis for in depth lameness evaluations. Our imaging capabilities include stationary and dynamic video endoscopy, video gastroscopy, ultrasonography, and digital radiography. We provide 24-hour care for foals and adult horses in our climate controlled intensive care unit and isolation facility. Orthopedic, soft tissue, colic, respiratory, and dental surgeries are performed by our board-certified surgeons. We also have specialists that provide corrective podiatry, dentistry, reproductive services and complementary medicine.

The hospital has a fully equipped surgical suite, three recovery rooms, two imaging rooms, five exam rooms, pharmacy, lab, reception area, two apartments, and a conference/surgery viewing room. A covered 60 x 120 asphalt area is used for lameness evaluations. Adjacent to the main building is a 12 stall barn with 1 exam room plus 30 outdoor covered stalls. A new addition is a 16 stall barn for Mares and foals. There is also a climate controlled barn that has four ICU stalls and two isolation stalls. A separate building houses a climate controlled farrier shop.

On staff we have two board certified surgeons, two associate Veterinarians, four interns, farriers, and complementary medicine specialists. Supporting staff consists of 15 technicians, four office staff, two barn staff, 1-2 volunteers daily, and externs.

We strive to provide a full scenario of equine practice and expose interns to the wide variety of cases we see. This is a high volume, fast-paced, rigorous internship. We believe in mentoring our interns, push them to develop their skill set and give them opportunity to engage in all the facets of the practice. A strong work ethic and excellent people skills are prerequisite to success of intern candidates. We believe the internship program is an environment to experience equine practice on a daily basis, get to interact with clients, and take responsibility for cases. We encourage our interns to develop not only their clinical skills but also their ability to communicate effectively, since both skills are critical to the development of a successful practitioner.

Appointments are scheduled Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Emergencies are seen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Interns can anticipate seeing 7-10 nighttime emergencies per week. Primary duties will be in-hospital, but some ambulatory exposure will be available, in the form of assisting the doctor making farm calls. Duties in the hospital involve daily treatment of hospitalized cases, assisting in examinations of the various patients admitted, and supervised performance of various veterinary procedures. Interns will also assist in surgical procedures and administer anesthesia occasionally. Interns will rotate emergency duty and will be the primary doctor to receive and treat emergencies, however, back-up assistance is always available and encouraged if needed.

Emergency duty is shared on a rotational basis with other interns. If there are 3 interns then your ER duty is every 3rd day and every 3rd weekend. You are Primary Intern every 3rd weekend plus every 2nd weekend you are Secondary Intern. If there are 4 interns, then emergency duty is rotated to every fourth week for one whole week at a time. The week long ER duty starts at 5:00 pm and goes till 8:00 am and you can go home to sleep during the day. Then you are on Primary for the entire weekend. The following weekend you will be on Secondary ER duty. Holidays are covered on a rotational basis. Responsibilities during the week commence at 6:30 am and continue until the work for the day is completed.

Initially, there is quite a bit of supervision and training. After a gradual transition and as your skill and training levels increase, supervision will taper off. The intern will always be under direct or indirect supervision (surgeon will be within 30 minutes of the hospital). The amount of supervision will depend on the intern’s competence and level of experience.

The Internship is a salaried position of $30,000.00 plus $600.00/month housing allowance. Benefits include a two-week paid vacation, and expenses to attend one veterinary conference at Texas A&M. TVMA, AAEP and AVMA dues are provided. Cell phone allowance ($100/month), health insurance (half of single employee rate (@$1500/year), and professional liability insurance (100%) is provided. Internships are for one year and run from June through May.

To apply for an internship position, please send a curriculum vitae, letter of intent, 2 letters of reference to Dr. Honnas at horses@texasequinehospital.com