

# **EXTERNSHIP MANUAL**

First and foremost, we would like to welcome you to Performance Equine Associates. We look forward to your stay here and hope that you will benefit greatly from your time spent in our clinic. We would like to share with you a few things that might make your externship a productive experience.

Our veterinarians are very interested in teaching and will take time to answer any questions you may have. However, please be respectful of the fact that patient care and communication with clients that may be in attendance take precedence, and reserve your questions for an appropriate time. We do appreciate a professional attitude and appearance, so please keep this in mind.

It is our goal that you should leave Performance Equine Associates having learned and participated in many different clinical experiences. To do this, we like to have our externs involved in all aspects of the daily activities of the clinic. The following information should serve as a guideline for you regarding responsibilities of the extern and what is expected of you during your stay.

Please complete the extern information sheet prior to your arrival at Performance Equine Associates.

## **TREATMENTS OF HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS:**

We have a very busy surgical and medical service with several to many patients in-house on any given day. Externs are expected to help with daily treatments and patient monitoring. This is truly and excellent opportunity for you to sharpen your physical examination skills as well as to become familiar with medications and diagnostics used on a regular basis in a private, referral hospital.

The hospital has a few basic guidelines:

1. Externs should not treat any animals in the presence of clients, unless directly instructed to do so by a clinician.
2. Bandage changes, intravenous injections, and intramuscular injections are to be performed only by a veterinarian or veterinary technician, unless direct supervision and permission is given. Externs may give oral medications.
3. Other treatments may be performed by externs when asked by a qualified staff member.

4. Always double check labels, treatment sheets, dosages, and routes of administration.
5. Records are maintained on every horse in the hospital, even if they are only boarding. All records on hospitalized patients are kept in the pharmacy/laboratory in notebooks according to their stall numbers. Records on ICU and isolation patients are kept on carts outside of their stalls.

We often have many people doing treatments during the day (interns, externs, veterinary technicians, clinicians). Once treatments are completed please mark them off on the treatment sheet so that treatments are not repeated. The daily treatments will be coordinated by the intern veterinarians. If any abnormalities in a hospitalized patient are observed, the interns should be notified immediately.

### **NIGHT TREATMENTS:**

The night technicians will perform all of the evening monitoring and patient treatments. However, during busy times of the year, the night technicians may require the assistance of the interns and externs on certain cases (sick neonatal foals, some colics, other intensive care cases). If necessary, evening help will be coordinated by the intern veterinarians.

### **SPECIAL INTERESTS:**

If you have any special interests, they should be brought to our attention so that we may help guide your time here more appropriately. We routinely run 2 surgery/lameness services, reproduction service, internal medicine service, and ambulatory service. Your time can be spent in as many areas as you would like. The practice management software program has a daily appointment schedule that you can peruse daily or weekly to determine where you would like to spend your time.

### **INTERNSHIP:**

Many of our interns come from externs throughout the year. If you are potentially interested in pursuing an internship at our hospital, please inform Carri Visser (practice manager) or Dr. William Rhoads.

Most of all, we hope you enjoy your stay here. We feel that our clinic has much to offer you and encourage you to take every opportunity to benefit from this learning experience. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.