

WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
SMALL ANIMAL SURGICAL RESIDENCY GUIDELINES

The WCVM Surgical Residency is a 3-year post-graduate, clinical and academic program. At the completion of the program, the resident should have met the requirements established by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) for eligibility to write the board exams. Additionally, the requirements of a Masters of Veterinary Science should have been met and the degree conferred at the completion of the residency.

The resident will enroll with the College of Graduate Studies and Research in order to work towards a Masters of Veterinary Science degree (MVSc). The MVSc is a non-thesis degree which involves three years of clinical work, course work (30 credits) and a research project. The MSc requires submission of a thesis and involves course work (15 credits) and a research project. The resident should discuss with their Graduate Committee and Resident Advisor about the relative merits of each. Most small animal surgery residents pursue a MVSc.

Fulfillment of the requirements of both the College of Graduate Studies and Research, and the ACVS is necessary for completion of the program.

**ACVS** [www.acvs.org](http://www.acvs.org)

Soon after arrival, we will ensure that the resident is registered with the ACVS. Shortly after registration with ACVS, the resident will receive a password and can download the Information Brochure from the ACVS website. Review this document carefully!

A Statement of Compliance form must be filled out and submitted to ACVS within 30 days of the initiation of the residency. A Resident Matriculation Fee of \$300.00 is also required at this time.

It is imperative that the resident ensure that the required number of weeks of supervised rotations is met with appropriate schedule planning with the resident advisor and/or the person responsible for scheduling the residents (for 2015-2016 it is Sakals). Plans for rotations through anesthesiology, radiology, internal medicine/critical care and pathology should be made in consultation with the resident advisor, faculty in those services, and the person responsible for scheduling.

Requirements for the 2015 entrant over the three years are as follows:

110 weeks	Surgery supervised by an ACVS diplomate
18 weeks	Research
8 weeks	Other specialty training

On-line case logs must be reviewed and approved by February 1st and August 1st of each year. The resident will be given a deadline by the program and/or resident advisor every six months for updating their case log to provide time for supervisors to go through the log.

A Program Director has been registered with the ACVS (Dr. Cindy Shmon). The program director is responsible for ensuring that the residency program meets all ACVS requirements. A form must be submitted to ACVS within 30 days of the residency start date.

All small animal surgeons will meet with the resident within the first two weeks of the program to discuss areas of research and interests of the resident. The Resident Advisor will then be decided, by mutual agreement. The resident advisor is responsible for direct supervision of the resident's

progress through the ACVS residency program. A form must be submitted to ACVS within the first calendar quarter (before October 15th) identifying the resident advisor.

The department solicits evaluations from faculty of clinical and academic performance of the resident. This will be performed every six months and written records maintained in the resident's file. The results will be discussed with the resident either with all faculty surgeons present or with just the resident advisor and a copy of the evaluation given to the resident.

For the ACVS case log, a "supervised" surgery is one where a board certified surgeon is either scrubbed into the surgery or is present in the OR for the majority of the duration. A surgery for which a surgeon was in the room for a short time only must not be counted as supervised.

### **College of Graduate Studies**

The requirements of the MVetSc (or MSc) degree program are detailed in the University Calendar, which is available online. Application to the College of Graduate Studies and Research must be completed prior to arrival at the college. Each term of the residency requires registration and payment of tuition, including summer sessions. This confers eligibility for income-tax deductions and full-time status.

A Graduate Student Advisor will be assigned by the Department Head. It is the Graduate Student Advisor's responsibility to oversee the graduate program, and ensure that course and research requirements are met. The advisor will be responsible for obtaining progress evaluations from faculty and staff, and communicating these evaluations to the resident.

A Graduate Advisory Committee will be established following identification of a research project. The Graduate Advisory Committee will consist of the department head, the resident advisor, all remaining small animal surgeons, and other members as appropriate. Courses taken and the research project will be selected in consultation with the Graduate Advisory Committee. The department head serves as chair of the committee and, with the Graduate Student Advisor, will be responsible for calling meetings at least every six months to discuss progress and problems. The first such meeting will be held not later than 90 days after the arrival of the resident.

### **Research Project**

In order to graduate, the research project must be written in a form acceptable for submission to a scientific journal. The defense of the project occurs during the last term of the final year. However, to complete credentials requirements to qualify to sit for the board examination, a paper must be accepted for publication by the end of July of the final year. Therefore it is strongly encouraged that research be completed as soon as possible to avoid missing the deadline. Many journals have very long wait times before acceptance, on the order of many months.

### **Courses:**

The resident must obtain a grade of at least 60% in each course and a weighted average of at least 70% in the program. A total of 30 credits is required for the M.Vet.Sci.

*Clinical Practice VSAC 980 (0 credits; mandatory for each session):* Register each term (Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer) each year, starting the first Fall session.

*Friday morning seminars VSAC 990 (0 credits, mandatory for each Fall/Winter session):* Register each Fall/Winter. The resident will present two seminars per year, one of which will be in Grand Rounds format.

*Project VSAC 992(MVSc)/994 (MS) (0 credits; mandatory for every term):* Register each term (Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer) each year, starting the first Fall session.

*Advanced Soft Tissue Surgery VSAC 860 (6 credits):* Offered every 3rd year (2016-2017).

*Advanced Small Animal Orthopedic Principles VSAC 875 (6 credits):* Offered every 3rd year (2017-2018)

*Special Topics VSAC 899 (Neurosurgery; 6 credits):* Will be offered this year (2015-2016)

*Advanced Medical Imaging of Small Animals VSAC 865 (3 credits):* This course is required to have a WCVM radiologist sign off for the ACVS requirement of 80 hours diagnostic imaging. Will be offered this year (2015-2016)

*Advanced Small Animal Clinical Sciences VSAC 873 (6 credits):* Register once, in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Credit for 3 clinical years.

*Clinical Trial Design and Analysis VLAC 881 (3 credits):* Offered every 2<sup>nd</sup> year (2016).

*Veterinary Critical Care VSAC 869 (6 credits):* full year, 6 credits. Not offered this year – undecided next offering

*Advanced Veterinary Anesthesiology VSAC 878 (3 credits) –* Offered every 3 years, 2017-2018

*Clinical and Anatomic Pathology VTPA 898 (3 credits):* expected to be given every 2<sup>nd</sup> year (2015)

## **Expectations**

The following provides a scale against which recommendation for promotion to the next year is made. Residents are encouraged to openly discuss any problems or conflicts.

Prior to arrival – enroll in the College of Graduate Studies and Research

### **Year I - In the first two months of arrival:**

- a. Submit required paperwork to ACVS for the start of the residency – keep copies for credential application!
  - a. Register for ACVS – as soon as possible after arrival, allows log in to website and further submission of forms
  - b. Statement of Compliance, Matriculation Fee, Identification– within 30 days of start date
  - c. Identification of Resident Advisor – within 90 days of start date. This year you can choose any of the surgeons to be your advisor. Talk with each to find the best fit.
- b. Register for Year 1 courses – early September. Get assistance from the other surgery residents who know how to register and which courses you should be registering for if you are not clear, or contact Carol Williams, the graduate secretary, in the SACS office
- c. Discuss and establish long term goals and interests with your advisor and other surgical faculty
- d. Develop and plan a research project, submit grant application by the mid-October deadline.
- e. Complete the computer-based courses GSR 962: Ethics Integrity Animal Research and GSR 960: Introduction - Ethics Integrity
- f. Complete the mandatory safety courses listed at the end of this handout. Contact Janna Boymook in the SACS office for additional information.
- g. Consider filling weeks in required services: pathology, radiology, anesthesiology, internal medicine/ECC.

### **Year II**

- a. By the end of year two, all research work should be completed, data accumulated and the initial draft of the manuscript written and ideally submitted to an ACVS approved journal.
- b. Develop proficiency in conducting undergraduate surgery rounds.
- c. Complete additional requirements for pathology, radiology, anesthesiology, internal medicine/ECC.

### **Year III**

- a. Submit the results of the research project for publication if not already completed.
- b. Defend the project for the graduate studies program, at the end of the spring of final year.
- c. Ensure ACVS requirement for pathology, radiology, anesthesiology, internal medicine are filled.

### **Licensing**

All residents must register with the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association. Payment of the fees and obtaining a valid license is the responsibility of the resident. The paperwork required will be provided in the initial package received on arrival.

### **Clinical Duty**

Residents will assume responsibility for daily management of cases under the supervision of faculty and in consultation with a senior clinician. The resident should neither transfer to nor receive cases from another clinician without authorization from the senior duty clinician. Absences as a result of illness or personal situations should be reported to the duty clinician. If specific personal time is required, speak with the faculty member arranging schedules (Sakals).

### **After Hours Duty and Weekends**

The hierarchy of emergency services is as follows:

1. Emergency Clinician (intern, first year internal medicine resident, internal medicine intern) is responsible for evaluation and triage of patients admitted to the emergency service.
2. Small Animal Surgery residents will be assigned to surgery backup emergency duty. The emergency clinician will consult with the surgery resident on cases requiring surgical diagnosis or intervention. For the first 6 months of the internship, the rotating interns are required to call their surgery back-up for all cases with a surgical component, which include all wounds and fractures, even if the owner has declined surgical work-up and/or surgery.
3. A senior clinician will be assigned to surgery backup for the resident on duty. The surgical resident must contact the backup surgery clinician prior to all emergency surgeries.

### **Teaching**

Residents will be involved in the clinical teaching of primarily fourth year students and in so doing should attempt to adhere to currently accepted theories and philosophies. Active exchange of ideas between faculty, residents and students is encouraged. Residents will be involved in teaching in clinics, guiding the students through history taking, diagnostic and therapeutic plans, and communication with owners, including discharge notes. Residents will also be expected to lead morning rounds at times and with topics with which the resident is comfortable.

### **Referrals**

Referral cases represent a large proportion of our surgical caseload and source of material for our teaching program. The referring veterinarian is as much our client as is the pet's owner. Residents must contact referring veterinarians as soon as possible after receiving a referred client and again at discharge of the animal from the hospital. In complicated cases with prolonged hospitalization, additional communication is appropriate. A referral letter must be e-mailed or faxed within 24 hours of discharge. The referring veterinarian should receive a copy of the discharge notes and results for any laboratory results. All written communication to the client and the referring veterinarian must be cosigned by the senior clinician. Referral letters cannot be sent without being signed and locked by the senior clinician.

### **Other academic pursuits**

The resident should discuss with their advisor the publication of additional papers, attendance at scientific meetings and attending University Hospital teaching rounds. Presenting the results of their research at the resident's forum of the ACVS meeting should be an objective of each resident. Additional scholarly activities are encouraged and all attempts made to facilitate such efforts.

There is a set amount of money for each resident (\$1300 per year) that can be used for travel expenses for attendance at conferences and presentation of abstracts.

### **Journal Club**

Surgery journal club is held 9-10 am every Friday morning, after the Friday morning seminar. The second-year resident e-mails the papers to be read and discussed each week. One week each month the journal club will be held with the large animal surgeons and residents.

### **Vacation**

The resident is entitled to three weeks vacation during the year. Plans for vacation should be coordinated with the Resident Advisor and the person making the schedules (Sakals).

### **Parking**

If a parking space is needed, the resident should apply to the University Parking Office for a parking space as soon as possible. Parking is at a premium and even more difficult to get once the students have returned.

### **Photocopying**

The resident will be assigned a password for the SACS copy machine. There is a limit of 3000 copies per year after which the resident will be billed.

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### **Mandatory Safety Courses:** [www.usask.ca/dhse](http://www.usask.ca/dhse) (course offerings, forms, online registration)

*Please notify Janna Boymook (Dept. of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Rm. 2529) of the courses you attend, date completed, and ensure that she has a copy of your certificates for any safety training for Department records. Some of these courses can be completed online – see Janna Boymook for details.*

Safety Orientation for New Employees: Mandatory for new employees. Each college and division needs to ensure that we are complying with the regulations set by Saskatchewan Labour's Occupational Health & Safety (Section 19(1)).

Biosafety Course: Mandatory for all employees who work with biological materials.

Radiation Safety Course: Mandatory for all employees who work with radioactive nuclear substances.

Safety Orientation for Supervisors: Mandatory for all supervisory faculty and staff that have people report to them (employees/students).

Laboratory Safety Course: Mandatory for all employees who work in a laboratory containing hazardous materials.