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New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center Externship Program

New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center is a private referral hospital founded in 2005 and located in Dover, New Hampshire. It provides 24 hour emergency and referral services exclusively for equine patients, clients, and referring veterinarians throughout New England as well as routine in-hospital evaluations for the local clientele. It is surrounded by quaint New England towns and is located only minutes from the seacoast, an hour from Boston, and centrally located to the mountains and lakes regions of New Hampshire and Maine. As of spring 2013, we also provide comprehensive ambulatory services to farms in the region including routine preventative and emergency care as well as lameness and medical evaluations.

NEEMSC is housed in a 34,000 square-foot facility that includes two full surgical suites, a medical exam room (ophthalmology, cardiology, ultrasonography, and endoscopy), a neonatal intensive care unit, digital radiography suite, full service laboratory, a large general exam and main treatment room, medicine barn with stall space for 8 inpatients and ICU care, surgery and lameness barns with stall space for 18 horses, a lameness evaluation area on hard footing as well as a covered lameness evaluation area on soft footing, and a 4-stall isolation unit. A new and separate imaging center houses nuclear scintigraphy, CT, and MRI for cases requiring advanced imaging techniques for comprehensive lameness and neurologic evaluations.

Our externship program is structured to be an invaluable learning experience for undergraduate, technician and veterinary students. We make every effort possible to expose you to various aspects of equine veterinary medicine while allowing as many “hands on” opportunities when the situation allows. You will work closely with our patients, clients and staff and are valued as an important part of the NEEMSC team. Our hope is that you regard your experience at New England Equine Medical & Surgical Center as an integral part of your journey toward a career in equine veterinary medicine.

Externships can range in duration from one to four weeks. Most externs find that they get the most benefit and hands on experience from longer duration stays. In addition to the extern responsibilities outlined below, educational opportunities are also provided during morning and evening rounds and journal club.

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Responsibilities/Daily schedule: Basic responsibilities of an extern consist of administration of oral, intravenous, intramuscular and subcutaneous medications, drawing routine blood work, reading packed cell volumes and total solids, intensive care monitoring, fluid administration, supportive care, clipping and sterile preparation of patients and basic restraint for clinical procedures.

Morning and afternoon treatments consist of intensive care evaluations and medication administration. Externs are scheduled for after hours treatments on an as needed basis. Midnight treatments consist of feeding, watering, medication administration and assisting the intern or technician with any necessary procedures. The extern scheduled for midnight and/or after hours patient monitoring is expected to be available to assist the intern with emergency admissions, intensive case management and emergency surgery when necessary after regular business hours.

Additional checks may be scheduled depending on a patient's status. Of course, externs are certainly welcome to assist during any treatment times for which they have not been scheduled. During the weekend, externs are scheduled to assist the clinical staff with treatments and medical case management. Efforts are made to allow each extern time off during the weekends, scheduling and caseload permitting.

Daily scheduling for an extern is designed to provide varied clinical exposure and participation in hospital case management, outpatient case assistance, and surgery assistance. Externs are able to shadow the cases they are interested in and get an exposure to many different types of cases.

Surgery: Responsibilities include assistance in preparation of the surgical patient (radiographs, clipping, blood work, IV catheterization), assisting in induction, surgical preps and intra-operative assistance. Externs are encouraged to ask questions in surgery to optimize their learning experience. Where the situation permits, an extern may have the opportunity to scrub into a surgery, provided they have completed their junior surgery rotation.

Hospital: Responsibilities are centered around routine care of patients in the hospital, from intensive care checks and fluid monitoring to walking, medication administration, wound and other supportive care.

Outpatient: Externs will observe and aid in scheduled outpatient appointments by jogging horses for lameness evaluation, assisting in radiology, endoscopy, ultrasonography, applying sterile preps and restraining horses for procedures.

Ambulatory: Externs are invited to ride along with the field veterinarian for the day and be exposed to a wide variety of farm visits including routine care, lameness, wellness checks and more.

Dress Code: Overall, the dress code is casual however as externs will be interacting with clients, please dress professionally (i.e. clean jeans or khakis, and appropriate shirt and work shoes). Scrubs are required when assisting in surgery. If you do not have scrubs, there are some available for your use at the clinic.

Accommodations: The intern apartment located above the clinic has guest rooms available for extern use. Each room comfortably accommodates two externs. The extern kitchen is located just outside the intern apartment as well. It is fully stocked with cooking utensils and other necessities for your use during your stay with us. Washer/dryer, satellite TV and internet access are also available during your stay. Blankets and pillows are provided. Please remember that the apartment is home to our interns. We ask that you show courtesy to those that you are living with during your stay at New England Equine.

How to Apply: To apply for an externship at NEEMSC, we ask that you send a completed application and current CV to our extern coordinator, Aurora Sochan (extern@newenglandequine.com).

Thank you for your interest in our externship program. We look forward to working with you!