



Extern Responsibilities for Veterinary Students

We want every extern to interact/observe and understand the flow of a busy mix animal practice. Rotating through all the services we provide for our clients will help you develop an appreciation for the quality of veterinary medicine we offer and help you determine if a mix animal practice is for you.

During your externship with us you **may** take part in any of the following:

Patient Triage:

- Weigh patients and put them into examination rooms
- Take vitals(TPR) and the patient weight and learn how to enter them into the computer system
- Take a concise but thorough history and be able to present it to the DVM and answer any additional questions they may have

Laboratory:

- Drawing blood from the jugulars, or cephalic veins
- Placing IV catheters
- Running chem. Panels/ Lytes, Heartworm test and CBC
- Performing in-house cytology (fecal, skin scrapes or aspirates)
- Interpreting lab work results and coming up with differential diagnosis with the DVM on the case

Radiology:

- Assisting with taking radiographs
- Interpreting radiographs with the DVM

Client Communications:

- Going over discharges and medications with clients
- Answering questions for clients over the phone and giving patient updates

You be the Doctor:

- Taking in cases, performing a physical exam and presenting the information to the DVM
- Selecting lab work to perform and other diagnostics (ok with DVM)
- Present approved estimates to clients
- Going over test results with owners
- Coming up with a treatment plan for your patient
 - Always come up with different options for clients- incase of financial reasons
- Writing medical notes for patients

Surgery:

- Scrubbing in and assisting with surgical cases and routine surgeries

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Please keep in mind:

If you ever find yourself in a situation that you feel uncomfortable with or if you feel that you have not been adequately trained to manage the situation, please notify the attending Doctor on the case immediately. Part of being a good doctor is knowing your limitations. Experience varies **GREATLY** from student to student and we rely on you to tell us what you feel comfortable doing. Do not put yourself or a patient at risk because you feel embarrassed to admit your limitations. Here at DAH we are here to help you learn and will not criticize you for not being able to answer a question or perform a procedure.

Use Caution:

Placing yourself, clients, our staff members or the patient at unnecessary risk will result in immediate suspension with further investigation. Other causes for suspension include (but are not limited to) frequent tardiness or overall poor attitude or work ethic. If any of these behaviors are noted, a sit-down discussion with our practice owner and a representative from your school will take place. The result will be either dismissal or reinstatement.