

# EQUINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
GHENT UNIVERSITY

Salisburylaan 133, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Organising departments:

Department of Surgery and Anaesthesiology of Domestic Animals

*Prof. Dr. F. Gasthuys*

Department of Medical Imaging

*Prof. Dr. H. Van Bree*

Department of Internal Medicine

*Prof. Dr. G. van Loon*

Department of Reproduction and Obstetrics

*Prof. Dr. A. de Kruif*

Coordinator of the program:

*Prof. Dr. A. Martens*

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**Start of the program:** September 20, 2010

**End of the program:** September 20, 2011.

### **Goals / General description of the program:**

The Equine internship program is a one-year post-academic educational program for recently graduated veterinarians aiming to give them clinical training in equine surgery, medical imaging, internal medicine, reproduction and obstetrics. This year of comprehensive broad postgraduate training and experience prepares the veterinarian for high-quality service in practice or for a decision of an area of specialisation (residency) (see next paragraph).

The equine internship program is organised by 4 different clinical departments of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Ghent University, Belgium): the department of “Surgery and Anaesthesiology of Domestic Animals” together with the department of “Medical Imaging” are responsible for the organisation of the “equine internship, option surgery and imaging”. An intern following this program will spend a majority of his/her time (8 months) in both organising departments. The remaining months will be rotating over the 2 other departments. Similarly, the department of “Internal medicine” is responsible for the organisation of the “equine internship, option internal medicine” and the department of “Reproduction and obstetrics” is responsible for the organisation of the “equine internship, option reproduction and obstetrics”. Again, interns will spend the majority of their time in the organising departments but a rotation to the other departments is provided.

### **Residency**

The internship program is a basis for a residency program organised by one of the following European Colleges

- European College of Veterinary Surgery (ECVS)
- European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging (ECVDI)
- European College of Equine Internal Medicine (ECEIM)
- European College of Animal reproduction (ECAR)

However, completion of an internship program is certainly no guarantee for admission as a resident.

### **Conditions for admission:**

- Candidates should have obtained the diploma of “Veterinary Medicine” at a University from the EU. Candidates that have obtained their diploma outside the European Union will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- Applications from last-year students will also be accepted.
- A profound knowledge of the English language is essential for candidates that are not Dutch-speaking.

### **Applications:**

- Internship position will be declared vacant in the month of April
- By the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, each applicant should submit a file to the coordinator of the internship, consisting of:
  - An application letter with the motivation of the candidate for participation to the program. It should also be stated which one of the offered equine internship options is preferred by the candidate.
  - A copy of the diploma of Veterinary Medicine (except for last-year students)
  - A curriculum vitae including a photo and a list of the results obtained during the different study years and the title of the thesis.

- Coordinates (name, phone-number and e-mail) of 2 persons of reference
- Late applications can only be considered in exceptional cases, and should be discussed with the coordinator.

### **Selection of the candidates:**

A jury representing the different organising departments will evaluate all applications. The selection will be based on:

- The file of the candidates
- An interview
- For external candidates, a first selection will be performed based on their CV and references. Next, several candidates will be asked to perform a visit to the University (2-3 days)

Candidates will be classified according to their curriculum, study results, clinical education and motivation for participation to the program. The number of applicants that will be admitted in the different equine internship options is determined by the organising departments.

### **Statute of the interns:**

Interns should subscribe as students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium. They receive a one-year scholarship with a monthly payment of 800 euro (tax-free). No reimbursement is provided for evening-, night- and weekend duties or for travel expenses.

### **Education of the interns:**

The equine internship program takes place at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University and consists of a clinical and theoretical part.

For the clinical part, interns participate to the daily clinical work in the different organising departments according to a schema that will be drawn up at the start of the program. The number of weeks that will be spent in the different departments depends on the equine internship option that was chosen, but generally consists of:

- 8 months of clinics in the organising department (depending on the option that was chosen, an internal rotation within the department is possible, e.g. orthopaedic examination, anaesthesia, surgery, care for the hospitalised patients,...)
- 3 months of clinics in the remaining two departments (Surgery and Medical Imaging are considered together)
- 4 weeks of holiday, plus the public holidays.

The organising departments are free to make limited changes to the exact number of weeks that needs to be spent in the different departments. At the start of the program, each intern will receive a schema indicating which weeks need to be spent at which department.

The education in veterinary pathology will be integrated in the clinics of surgery and internal medicine. The intern is encouraged to do a complete follow-up of specific patients.

Each department determines how the interns will be engaged in the clinic. However, a staff member of the department has the final responsibility of all clinical activities of the intern, including the communication with the owners of clinical patients.

The rotations in the different departments are performed on a 1 month-basis. Holidays are taken after consideration with the responsible staff of the different departments with a maximum of 2 weeks to be taken in the months of July and August. Interns will also be enrolled in the evening-, night- and weekend duties of the different departments so that the presence of an intern is always ensured. Interns on duty are expected to sleep in the clinic (room provided in each department), making sure that they are present for first-aid in urgent

cases and for the communication with the owners of hospitalised patients. The frequency of evening-, night- and weekend duties is either “one week on two” or “one week on three”, depending on the number of interns that will be accepted.

The theoretical education consists of:

- “Education afternoons” (10 per year): discussion of a specific topic with the interns and a clinical expert. At the start of the program, interns will receive the list of dates and topics that will be discussed, as well as the literature (chapters of textbooks, articles,...) that needs to be studied before participation to an education afternoon. The afternoon starts with a discussion about the current knowledge of the topic and its illustration with a few clinical cases / examples. Problem cases can be solved in group and possibly, multiple choice questions will be included to evaluate each of the participants. A practical exercise on surgical techniques is also included in the education afternoons.
- Participation to the journal clubs and book readings organised by the different departments.
- Interns should participate to at least 5 post-academic courses (national courses like IPV, BEPS, WVGP) or international congresses. The payment of these courses (at student/intern fee) is for the participating interns.

### **Evaluation of the interns**

A representative of the organising department will perform two intermediate evaluations during the year according to a standard evaluation document. These evaluations will be discussed with the intern.

The final evaluation is performed at the end of September. It includes a permanent evaluation of the clinical work, the evaluations of the education afternoons and the participation to the post-academic courses/congresses. A positive evaluation results in a “certificate of equine internship”, delivered by Ghent University.

The organising department has the possibility to cancel the participation of an intern to the program when the intern does not comply with the rules or after several negative evaluations.