

Standard ECVAA Residency Programme

University of Ghent

(April 2025)

Content

1. General information
2. Duration of training
3. Supervision by ECVAA Diplomate
4. Case load of adequate size, standard and variety
5. Externships
6. Presentation and publication of research
7. Non-clinical training and continuing education
8. Facilities, services and equipment

1. General information

Address:

- Department of Large Animal Surgery, Anaesthesia and Orthopaedics
- Department of Small Animals

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
University of Ghent
Salisburylaan 133
9820 Merelbeke
Belgium

Contact persons:

- Patricia de la Paz Ruiz López (patriciadelapaz.ruizlopez@ugent.be)
- Stijn Schauvliege (stijn.schauvliege@ugent.be)

The Large Animal Surgery, Anaesthesia and Orthopaedics Department runs a large animal clinic (90% equine, 10% farm animals) while the Small Animal department runs a small animal clinic (80% dogs, 20% cats).

Under normal circumstances, one or two new residency position(s) will be declared open once every 2 or 3 years. The resident will divide the clinical time equally between both departments.

Prospective residents can only be admitted to the Standard ECVAA Residency programme if they meet the following criteria:

- Are a graduate veterinarian of a veterinary college recognised by EAEVE and licensed to practise in a European country
- Have completed at least a one-year standard rotating internship or have at least two years of clinical training in a well-equipped multidisciplinary large or small animal practice (experience with both will be considered)
- Have a good knowledge of the English language
- Other qualifications and experience will be taken into account but are not compulsory

2. Duration of training

To start:

- Last week of September):
 - So, the resident can sit the first exam during the third year of residency
- Optional: One year extra as resident, depending on agreement between supervisors and resident (4th year residency doesn't count for credentials)

Note: Applicants MUST submit the **Resident enrolment** form for enrolment in a Standard Residency **before the next deadline following the starting date of their Programme**. Deadlines to send the application are 1st February and 1st September.

Rotation system between large and small animal departments:

- First 8 weeks of residency: only in large or only in small animals, and switch again 8 weeks to the other department to get used to management of the species
- After that, 2 weeks alternating in small and large animals
- Emergencies: The resident will take part in the emergency duties for large and small animals.
- Off clinic time: The resident will have at least 20% of off clinic time, as the ECVAA indicates.

3. Supervision by ECVAA Diplomate

The ECVAA resident will be supervised by 2 ECVAA Diplomates:

- Stijn Schauvliege
- Patricia de la Paz Ruiz Lopez

There will ample interaction between these diplomates and the residents. In addition, the residents will have the opportunity to interact with diplomates and specialists of other disciplines during the cases and the externships.

4. Case load of adequate size, standard and variety

Both departments have a sufficient caseload to fulfil the residency requirements. The variety of species (horses, donkeys, sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, llamas, alpacas, dogs, cats, and occasionally wild or exotic animals) and types of interventions (soft tissues, orthopaedics, cardiology, diagnostic or standing procedures, minimally invasive surgeries, etc.) provide a wide experience during the training of the resident.

The resident is expected to get involved in the peri-anaesthetic management of the cases and in the emergencies.

Besides his/her education in anaesthesia and analgesia, the resident is also involved in the education of the veterinary medicine students during the clinical cases, practical classes / skills lab and case discussions for the final year veterinary students. The resident will also be involved in the education and training of interns.

5. Externships

- Obliged:
 - 1 week in cardiology (small or large animal focused depending on the interest of the resident)
 - 1 week in medical imaging (small or large animal focused depending on the interest of the resident)

- 2 weeks in ICU (small or large animal focused depending on the interest of the resident)
- These externship weeks in other disciplines are included in off clinic time and must be taken in agreement with the supervisor(s)
- Optional: 1 week anaesthesia in a human hospital
- Optional: 1 or 2 x 2 weeks for externship in anaesthesia, analgesia and/or perioperative care: selection of the training centre depending on the preferences of the resident in agreement with the supervisors

6. Presentation and publication of research

The resident will be motivated to perform at least one research study in agreement with the supervisor(s). It will be discussed at the beginning of the residency programme in line with the publication requirements of the residency programme. The publications will be aimed to indexed journals.

The resident will be stimulated to present the research and/or cases of interest at congresses.

7. Non-clinical training and continuing education

It is important for the resident to be involved in the following trainings:

- Question of the month: One short answer question to be answered and discussed every month
- Journal club
- Book club
- Presentation of at least one seminar per resident per year: Content to be agreed with the supervisors

The resident will be stimulated to attend congresses/courses of the speciality and/or related with the areas of interest.

8. Facilities, services and equipment

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Ghent has a fully equipped multidisciplinary hospital divided in different services:

- Internal Medicine
- Imaging
- Surgery

- Dentistry
- Ophthalmology
- Anaesthesia
- Cardiology
- Hospitalisation
- ICU
- Reproduction
- Pathology Services
- ...

Furthermore, the resident will have access to the library of the University of Ghent and medical records (database stored in a digital archive which is open to all residents).