

Dear Senior Students,

Congratulations on having completed the vast majority of your veterinary education! Many of you are probably starting to look for jobs, but some of you may be considering an internship as the next step in your professional development. For those of you completing your training in January, starting an internship would typically mean that you will have several months following graduation without employment. While this might be a welcome break, it is certainly a pause in the pursuit of your goals.

Veterinary Medical and Surgical Group (VMSG) is a well-established and highly respected referral practice in Ventura California. We have had a successful internship program for over 17 years. We are considering adding mid-year interns. We are inviting students who plan to complete their program this fall or winter to apply for internship at VMSG, which would begin on January 15th, 2017. We would expedite the review process such that the applicant could avoid going through the VIRMP program if they were accepted at VMSG. We will fill up to 2-3 positions for the January 15th start date. The internship is a 12 month (53 week) program, so would be completed sometime near January 15th of the following year. The program description is attached. We can also consider a non-traditional internship of 6 months ending at the same time as our current intern class on June 30th 2017.

Any interested students should submit a Curriculum Vitae and Letter of Intent, as well as a copy of their most updated transcript, and three letters of recommendation from clinical faculty. Applications should be sent to Dr. Theresa Ortega c/o Michelle Rose at mrose@vmsg.com. Please submit application no later than December 25th 2016.

We encourage a visit – it is always a good idea for the applicant to see the hospital, and talk with staff members and the people who are in the current internship program. If a visit is not possible, a Skype interview may be arranged once the package is reviewed. Interested students may also contact Michelle Rose for the email addresses of the interns currently in our program. Please feel free to contact Michelle Rose with any questions.

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The Internship at Veterinary Medical and Surgical Group

Veterinary Medical & Surgical Group was the first specialty hospital in the California central coast, serving this area for over 28 years and has participated in the annual VIRMP match program for over 17 years. There are positions available for graduates who are graduating in the fall or winter, and able to start their program by January 15th. This is a unique opportunity for these students, as other internship programs typically start in July.

The Facility

Veterinary Medical & Surgical Group is a 24-hour hospital specialty medical and surgical referral center, providing ICU care and limited emergency services to the central coast of California. The hospital is approximately 17,000sf, with three surgery suites, with advanced equipment for both soft tissue and orthopedic surgeries including laparoscopy equipment. A special procedures room with multiple sizes of endoscopy equipment and includes a digital video monitor. Radiology equipment includes two digital radiography suites, two high resolution ultrasound machines, and a CT scanner. The fully-equipped intensive care unit includes oxygen cages, mechanical ventilator, telemetric electrocardiography, defibrillator, pulse oximetry, and blood pressure monitors. In house diagnostic equipment includes blood gas and electrolyte monitors, and CBC, chemistry and coagulation analyzers. Advanced therapeutics are available including transfusion products and parenteral nutrition.

The Staff

The staff includes specialists in internal medicine, surgery, oncology and cardiology. Radiology is now performed through a telemedicine service. There are three internal medicine specialists and 4 board certified surgeons who are a vital source of support for the interns, especially on nights and weekends. We are currently seeking Emergency Critical Care Specialists.

The support staff includes highly trained technicians, many of whom are licensed RVT's. The ICU technicians are capable of placing central catheters and performing advanced patient monitoring.

The Internship:

The 52 week internship has an emphasis on medicine, surgery, and critical care. The intern will spend approximately 45 to 60% of his/her time on emergency or inpatient shifts. During these shifts the intern will have access to specialists for consultation. Extensive daily case rounds ensure that the intern has the opportunity to learn from each case he/she sees as well as cases being managed by other doctors. The intern will also spend time on surgery, internal medicine, and oncology rotations. In addition to case rounds, there are weekly didactic rounds for the interns presented by the various specialists. The intern is also expected to present at least one Journal Club talk, one M & M rounds presentation, and one case report. The intern is expected to participate in the teaching of technicians and visiting student externs. The internship is

designed to expose the participant to the various specialties, allowing the intern to develop a special interest to pursue in a residency, but also providing a broad education in high quality medicine and surgery which will be valuable in any type of future practice. Previous interns have routinely expressed that they felt very well prepared for the jobs they went into because of their VMSG experience. The internship is designed to prepare doctors for residency, emergency work, and high quality private practices.

The Details

Schedule: The interns rotate through a 3 week schedule, spending three weeks each in medicine, surgery, oncology, and on varying emergency or inpatient rotations. When on emergency weeks, the intern may be on a primary receiving shift and seeing emergency cases, or may be on a mainly inpatient management shift working with patients in the ICU or that presented to the emergency service. The interns do work overnight shifts as part of the emergency rotations.

The interns work 6 days a week, with a guaranteed 1 day off a week. On days off, the intern has no clinical responsibility, and need only come in if there is a pre-planned didactic event. The interns get 5 days of vacation, but will work most of the major holidays (i.e. Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's Day) and all of the minor holidays.

The intern must be prepared to be in the hospital from 12 to 15 hours a day during most shifts. This is typical. Pets cannot come to the hospital during normal shifts, so necessary arrangements should be made for them.

Primary Case Management Responsibility: Interns are expected to function as doctors from the first day after orientation. They are the primary doctor on their cases, and handle all of the client communications, medical record keeping, etc... They are able to seek advice and support from numerous sources, but ultimately the decisions on their cases are theirs.

Skills: The typical intern will have had the opportunity to gain most of the skills needed to be able to practice general medicine or emergency medicine, and have a strong foundation to prepare them to be residents in any discipline. Sample skills include:

Emergency:

- Patient stabilization (shock, trauma, etc...)
- Intubation
- IV catheter placement
- Wound management and other common minor procedures
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Emergency "FAST" ultrasound

Medicine:

- Thoracentesis, abdominocentesis, cystocentesis
- Bone marrow aspirate/biopsy
- Cerebrospinal fluid tap

Joint tap
Tracheal wash
Basic endoscopic exam and biopsies
Basic ultrasound skills

Surgery: skill level will depend on intern's case exposure and interest. Examples of exposure include:

Tissue handling and basic approaches
Common soft tissue elective surgeries (cystotomy, splenectomy, etc...)
Common orthopedic elective & emergency surgeries (fracture repair, TPLO, etc...)
Common emergency surgeries (GDV, enterotomy, pyometra, dystocia, etc...)