

## EXTERN OR PRECEPTORSHIP INFORMATION: COOSA VALLEY EQUINE CENTER

### **Goals of Externship Program:**

- To build communication skills which will help the extern become a successful veterinarian
- To introduce a veterinary student or international veterinarian to a busy equine practice
- To improve the extern's medical knowledge and application of that information
- To offer an environment where an individual can become comfortable in handling/restraining large animals
- To provide opportunities to improve technical skills
  - Blood draw
  - Anesthesia monitoring
  - Suturing
  - Palpation
  - Ultrasound and Radiography

**How to Apply:** Letter of intent and resume with references may be mailed, emailed or faxed to the attention of Jim Bishop along with requested dates.

Address- COOSA VALLEY EQUINE 1330 Mineral Springs Road. Pell City, AL

E Mail- [coosavalleyequ@aol.com](mailto:coosavalleyequ@aol.com)

Fax- (205) 338-3242

**Externs Responsibilities:** To be present and helpful during the course of the work day, weekends and with after hour emergencies. The extern is a valuable part the veterinarian's primary medical support team. They often have the essential physical exam skills and knowledge to determine the condition of a patient, which allows the veterinarian to rely on their diagnostic skills to expedite the healing process. Once the extern has demonstrated their ability, they assist the doctor throughout the examination, diagnosis and treatment phases of hospitalized cases.

**Requirement:** AVMA Student Insurance is highly recommended.

**Living arrangements:** One bedroom apartment located inside the main clinic with a bath, small kitchen, TV, XM radio and washer/dryer included.

1. **Dress Code** - We ask that you dress professionally. You will have contact with our clients; therefore you represent Coosa Valley Equine Center. The following guidelines should be followed:

- Pants should be khaki or jeans preferably and should be professional in style. Torn, stained or excessively worn jeans are not permitted.
- Shirts should be plain style; we recommend scrub tops, polo shirts or plain colored, nice t-shirts. However, if scrubs are worn we like for you to wear an undershirt for scrubs are very loose fitting.
- Shoes should be boots and should be fairly clean.
- Jewelry should be tasteful, professional, and minimal. Dangling or hoop earrings are not recommended, as they can be torn out.
- Please cover all visible tattoos while working

2. **Observing** - You are welcome to observe any procedures that interest you. If you are interested in watching surgical procedures please be aware of the following guidelines:

- You are welcome to ask questions regarding anatomy or the horse's condition, but always ask the surgeon if it is an OK time to ask questions. Sometimes during an involved procedure it can be distracting to have the questions asked, so a more appropriate time may be at the end or when the surgeon is closing the incision.
- The surgical area on the patient is off-limits to anyone who is untrained and/or unsterile. Once the patient is on the surgical table, do not touch the patient any longer. The surgical pack and instruments have the same rules and are off-limits as well.
- If a client is with their horse, your questions should wait until the client no longer there. Doctors and technicians need to give 100% attention to our clients, and asking questions in front of them may be inappropriate.

3. **Animal Contact** - We may keep your direct contact with horses to a minimum for safety purposes.

- Never approach a horse without first asking if it is OK by a doctor or technician.
- Never open a stall that is occupied by a horse without permission.
- If a horse is being restrained, do not help in any way unless asked to do so.

4. **Client Contact** - We are protective of the environment we create and provide for our clients. We strive to offer the highest quality professionalism and services. We may choose to restrict your contact with our clients from time to time for that reason. In the case that you do have client interaction with clients, please follow these guidelines:

- Please do not ask questions when in the presence of clients. Save your questions for later. A doctor may be able to answer your questions on a more clinical level if you wait to discuss the case after a client leaves.
- If a client asks you a question, explain that you are an intern, extern or volunteer and that you are uncertain of the correct answer(EVEN IF YOU do know the correct answer), but that you would be happy to get a team member who can answer their question for them.
- Volunteers should keep conversations with clients to a minimum when services are being performed. That can disrupt the flow of appointment preparation and completion.
- We do not allow volunteers at the front desk; the area is too small and that may distract the receptionists from providing one on one attention with our clients.