

**Medicine Residency Program  
Department of Small Animal Medicine  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-7390**

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## **Introduction**

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine is located in Athens, Georgia. Athens is a community of approximately 100,000 residents located 65 miles northeast of Atlanta. The University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital provides out-patient and hospital accommodations for the medical and surgical treatment of companion animals. Complete clinical, diagnostic, and pathologic facilities permit the intensive study of hospital patients.

## **Objectives**

The objective of the 3-year small animal internal medicine residency is to provide graduate veterinarians with advanced clinical education and research experience allowing them to enter either the private or academic sector. A major goal of the program is to prepare veterinarians to become board certified in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Specialty of Small Animal Internal Medicine. Candidates must have previously completed a one-year rotating internship or its equivalent in practice experience. Currently the program has three options: a Non-degree option, Master's degree option and a Doctor of Philosophy degree option.

## **Options**

The graduate degree (MS, PhD) programs are available from other departments in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The area of interest of the resident will determine the department in which they will pursue the degree. In the graduate degree option, the resident spends 22 months (30- 3 week blocks) on hospital duty and has the remaining time to pursue a research project. Time is provided for course work while on hospital duty. The PhD degree option is similar to the Master's degree with respect to total clinic duty. The number of blocks per year will vary and the non-clinical portion will take approximately two years longer to complete.

In the Non-degree option, the resident spends 37 - 3 week blocks on hospital duty. These blocks are usually distributed as: year 1 - 14 blocks on and 3 blocks off; year 2 - 12 blocks on and 5 blocks off; and year 3 - 11 blocks on and 6 off. The off-clinic time is spent on a required clinical or laboratory research project, specialty rotations, and preparation for board examinations.

Activities planned for off-clinic time should be planned with the assistance of the residency coordinator or the resident advisor. Other than vacation, residents are required to remain locally available during off clinic time.

The Resident Coordinator will contact the selected resident within a few weeks of selection. At that time further information will be given on the details concerning both the degree and non-degree options. The Resident Coordinator will assist the first year resident in deciding which option to pursue. The decision should be made by the resident prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> in the year the candidate starts their residency. The Resident Coordinator oversees the programs of all the small animal internal medicine residents. A departmental internal medicine faculty member will be assigned to each resident and will serve as an additional mentor to facilitate successful completion of the residency program. The resident must register their candidacy with the ACVIM within the first 90 days of entering the residency program to qualify for ACVIM credentials approval. They must update ACVIM each year regarding their residency program status.

### **Para clinical Training**

Student rounds are held on various medical topics with in depth case analysis for 1-2 hours each day. While on hospital rotation, the residents will be asked to lead these rounds approximately one day per week. Residents will be asked to give at least 1 lecture yearly in the undergraduate courses. This will be in the form of a case discussion or a formal topic. Residents will also be asked to participate in yearly continuing education seminars to the local practice community. Residents participate in resident rounds weekly with faculty. The format of these rounds varies week to week and includes journal club, journal review, morbidity/mortality rounds, and research presentations. Residents will be asked to lead these rounds on a rotating basis. Weekly grand rounds seminars are given by the house officers of the clinical departments. Residents will be asked to give one of these seminars each year of their residency program. A board preparation review course has been organized and residents will present reviews on topics on a rotating basis with residents and faculty from internal medicine and subspecialty areas. The residents have organized independent study sessions among themselves to review didactic information for the

ACVIM board exams. Residents will be expected to be involved in a research project during their program. The results of this project must be presented to the faculty in written form ready for manuscript submission before the residency certificate will be issued.

### **Compensation**

For every 12 months of training, 15 days vacation is provided for residents, as well as 12 days of sick leave. Vacation time may be taken by prior application and notification of the residency coordinator. You must officially sign out with the medicine office before taking vacation. There are also 6 days during the winter holiday; clinic coverage during this time is shared between residents. Although there are no state funds to support resident or faculty travel, the medicine section is usually able to provide funding to partially offset expenses associated with travel to one professional meeting for each resident each year of their residency program. Currently, this is done through delivery of continuing education programs by section members. The beginning annual stipend is \$26,364. This is increased each year. All programs are graduate programs, leading to an official University certificate of residency. A one time application fee of \$75 and tuition and student fees (approximately \$2000/year) are the responsibility of the individual selected for the program. Proof of medical insurance coverage and proof of immunization for measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, tetanus, and rabies are required.

Professional liability insurance is provided, but parking fees (up to \$480/year currently) and health insurance are the responsibility of the individual. Medical insurance is available through the Graduate School at a reasonable rate. All clinical faculty and staff must be members of the AVMA in order to obtain professional liability insurance.

### **Resident Evaluation**

In order to adequately monitor this training program, the resident will be evaluated twice yearly by the entire medical faculty and other faculty with whom the resident has worked. Student and intern evaluations conducted each block are also considered. Residents are encouraged, but not required, to

maintain a clinical case log which may also be used in evaluation and for ACVIM documentation. Audit of case records may also be a part of the evaluation process. Residents are required to keep a log of their clinical, research, publication, and teaching activities on a yearly basis. These logs will be reviewed during the bi-annual formal review process.

The resident will be evaluated prior to re-appointment for the second year of the residency program and following the completion of the second and third years. The medicine faculty will consider results of the evaluation process and satisfactory completion of the residency requirements prior to recommending a Certificate of Residency for the individual. The resident must have completed the residency project and have compiled a written report in a form suitable for publication to fulfill that requirement. Master's or PhD candidates will complete course work and prepare a thesis according to the requirement of the graduate school.

### **Residency Training Experience**

This training program will depend in large measure on echelon teaching. Within the framework of senior faculty, third-year resident, second-year resident, and first-year resident, direct communication in terms of consultation, observation, demonstration, and constructive criticism will contribute to the resident's education. The resident will also be expected to pursue independent study. As previously described, modes of education to be utilized in this training program include: case material, clinico-pathologic conferences and seminars, research investigation, and utilization of basic science expertise.

The residency program is approved by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

### **Residency Program Time Plan**

#### **Year 1**

The major impetus during the resident's first 12 months of training will be the development of clinical and problem solving skills. This will be established by daily exposure to the medical faculty and diversity of clinical cases. Consultation with and supervision by, the faculty of the college of veterinary

medicine will be the mainstay of this phase of the training program. In addition, participation in veterinary student rounds, resident rounds, didactic teaching experiences, and departmental seminars will be required.

The resident will function in the Teaching Hospital Monday through Friday at least 10 hours daily. He/she will have responsibility for emergency transfers and in-patients on Saturday and Sunday, currently on a rotating basis. Internal medicine residents also provide primary back up for the interns on emergency duty. This may be limited to phone contact, but may also require after-hours presence in the hospital. Internal medicine residents also rotate responsibility for emergency endoscopy and cardiac ultrasound examinations. Faculty backup is available at all times. It is anticipated that the resident will be involved in hospital duties and functions for approximately 60 hours weekly. The daily activities for medicine residents are dictated by the schedule of their assigned service. Currently, 1 medical team controls the teaching and service obligations for small animal internal medicine cases admitted to the Teaching Hospital. An emergency service consisting of a clinician, technician, and students admits and provides initial triage and stabilization of internal medicine patients presenting on emergency. These patients may be transferred to the internal medicine service the same or the following day after admission depending on time of admission and internal medicine service case load. The internal medicine service is composed of 2 faculty clinicians, 1-3 residents, 1-2 interns, and 6-13 fourth year veterinary students. Critical care specialists are available for consultation on critical patients. The service and teaching objectives allow broad training in small animal medicine. Teaching rounds for students are conducted every weekday in different formats: didactic, topic rounds, or case-based rounds. Separate faculty-run clinician rounds for interns and residents are also held daily to discuss in-house and perplexing cases.

Specialty services consisting of cardiology, oncology, emergency/critical care, and neurology operate separately. The resident will rotate on and off these services, as well as clinical pathology and radiology during their program.

The resident functions as part of the educational team and is expected to critique the student's ability to solve clinical problems effectively and efficiently including daily written critiquing of the

student SOAPs. Residents are expected to develop teaching skills such that they can effectively lead rounds and direct students through a problem-oriented approach to medical action. It is expected that the resident will have daily, in depth discussions with students on their shared patients. During any portion of the day, residents may need to supervise or assist interns assigned to their medical service. Residents are expected to be knowledgeable of current literature pertaining to their cases.

Residents are expected to be available on a rotating “on call” basis to provide consultation to interns on emergency internal medicine cases. After familiarization with endoscopy technique, equipment, and cleaning procedures, residents may perform endoscopy on an emergency basis. Faculty provide backup for the medical residents.

One of the goals of the residency program is to provide the resident with research experience, preferably through a short-term controlled research project or clinical study. The first year resident, with assistance from his/her faculty advisors, will choose and begin a project to be completed during the second or third year of residency.

## **Year 2**

The second year resident will continue participation in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital internal medicine program and will conduct the data collection phase of their research project.

Completion of one or more manuscripts for publication to partially fulfill ACVIM requirements for board certification, and for the residency, is expected. The resident will also be provided 3-6 weeks immediately prior to the general examination to finish preparation for that examination. Other study time may be taken on earlier blocks as arranged.

## **Year 3**

During the third year, the resident will continue participation in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital internal medicine program. A portion of this time will be spent as chief resident in charge of an internal medicine service. This will allow maximum utilization of accumulated medical knowledge and expertise. Areas of weakness will become apparent and provide stimulus for improvement.

While off duty, the research project will be completed and written for publication in a refereed journal. The resident will also be provided 3-6 weeks prior to the certifying examination to complete preparation for that examination.

### **B. Doctor of Philosophy Degree Option**

This is intended to be a five-year program incorporating the same experiences, responsibilities, and opportunities as outlined for the non-degree option above except that the resident will concurrently obtain a PhD degree in a related discipline in lieu of the short-term research project. The graduate advisor and resident coordinator will facilitate scheduling to permit the resident to realize both clinical and graduate degree requirements of this program. Funding will be contingent on extramural resources available to the faculty mentor.

### **Application Process**

Application may be made by sending a curriculum vita, including work experience and class standing, a statement of objectives for the residency, and 3 letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's clinical aptitude to:

Dr. Scott Brown, Department Head  
Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-7390

Questions about the program should be directed to:

Dr. Cynthia R. Ward, Residency Director for Internal Medicine  
Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-7390  
[crward@uga.edu](mailto:crward@uga.edu)  
706-542-6380

An on site interview is recommended, but not required for selection into this program. Phone interviews are also encouraged. A scheduled visit to our hospital may be arranged by contacting the

residency director. The Department selects residents through the Intern/Resident matching program conducted by the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians.

**Suggested Time Schedule Graduate Degree Residency**

<b>Year of Residency</b>	<b>Blocks on at UGA</b>	<b>Blocks off</b>	<b>Off time</b>
1	12	5	Project; attend 1 meeting
2	10	7	Project data collection; write manuscript; attend ACVIM meeting; take general exam
3	11	6	Finish writing project; case preparation; study for boards; attend ACVIM meeting; take certifying exam
Totals	33	18	

**Suggested Time Schedule Non-Degree Residency**

<b>Year of Residency</b>	<b>Blocks on at UGA</b>	<b>Blocks off</b>	<b>Off time</b>
1	14	3	Project; attend 1 meeting
2	12	5	Project data collection; write manuscript; attend ACVIM meeting; take general exam
3	11	6	Finish writing project; case preparation; study for boards; attend ACVIM meeting; take certifying exam
Totals	37	14	

I have read the details of the above program and I am choosing the \_\_\_\_\_ Degree  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Non Degree program and will follow the appropriate guidelines.

Resident \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature  
 Print Name

Residency Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_