

ZOOLOGICAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery (SAMS) offers a 3 year clinical residency in zoological medicine, approved by the American College of Zoological Medicine. The starting date is August 1, 2008. This program is supervised by Drs Stephen Hernandez-Divers, Christine Fiorello, and Sonia Hernandez-Divers, all Diplomates of the American College of Zoological Medicine. Residents completing this program will be eligible for both the ACZM (US) and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (Europe) Diplomas in Zoological Medicine. The individual completing this program will have attained a broad clinical base for future involvement in a variety of nondomestic animal practices including zoos, wildlife parks, research institutions, universities, or exotic pet referral practices.

This is a non-degree graduate student program leading to an official University Certificate of Residency. Tuition for this graduate program is \$25/semester. However, a one time application fee of \$50 and student fees of approximately \$600 each fall and spring/semester and approximately \$300 for summer semester are required and are the responsibility of the individual. Professional liability insurance is provided, but parking expenses (approx \$360/year) are the responsibility of the individual. Proof of insurance is required. Insurance is available through the Graduate School. 15 days of annual leave and 12 days of sick leave are available. The starting annual salary for 2008-2009 is approximately \$24,480.00

Requirements: Candidates must be fluent in written and spoken English, and foreign applicants whose native language is not English must submit TOEFL scores obtained within the previous 2 years. All applicants must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in their country of origin, and priority is given to those candidates that fulfill the following:

- 1) 2-4 years of practice experience in small animal/exotic or zoo animal medicine, or completion of a 1-year small animal rotating and/or exotic internship. General clinical competency is essential.
- 2) Previous veterinary experience at a US institution with a reference from the supervising veterinarian (e.g. externships at US veterinary hospitals, zoos, or private practices). An externship at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia can be arranged.
- 3) Excellent academic record with previous research experience and veterinary publications. (Submission of a class rank helps in the evaluation of non-US veterinary graduates).

All three years are primarily devoted to participating in the Exotic Animal, Wildlife and Zoological Medicine Service within the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), The University of Georgia, and in field activities at a variety of zoological collections including Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail and Sandy Creek Nature Reserve. The annual hospital and field caseload per house officer is approx 450 cases/yr. In every 12 month period, the resident will spend 9-10 months on-clinic duty and 2-3 months off-clinics fulfilling their scholarly requirements for research and publications, and taking additional specialist externships, either within the College of Veterinary Medicine (e.g. anesthesia, clinical pathology, pathology, surgery, internal medicine, wildlife, avian), The University of Georgia (e.g. Ecology, Forestry) or at regional zoological institutions.

The residency emphasizes clinical training in the principles of zoological medicine and surgery. The clinical work is approximately distributed as follows: 45% avian, 35% mammals, 18% reptiles/amphibians, and 2% fish/invertebrates. Approximately 75% of the caseload is represented by privately owned companion animals, 15% native wildlife, and 10% zoo animals. In addition to a supervising on-clinic faculty, the resident is aided by a full-time intern, certified technician, 2-3 veterinary assistants, and 3-5 senior veterinary students on 3-week elective rotations.

The resident is encouraged to attend and present at a national or international conference every year, as well as attend lectures or seminars in the College of Veterinary Medicine or on the university

campus. The intern will work under the supervision of senior faculty members and will be responsible for (1) participating in the daily activities of the medical service of the hospital including primary case responsibilities and case rounds; (2) participating in regular visits to Bear Hollow Wildlife Trail, and Sandy Creek Nature Reserve; (3) providing assistance in instruction and supervision of the zoological intern, and veterinary students assigned to exotics duty; (4) providing emergency weekend and night-time back-up for exotic species admitted by the small animal emergency interns within the teaching hospital (on a rotating basis with the exotic intern, with faculty support; (5) participate in the annual visit to the Georgia Southern University Wildlife Center; (6) presenting one 45-minute seminar to the College each year and active participation in zoological journal club rounds.

Both the ACZM and RCVS require that all residents receive, in addition to clinical training, some exposure to investigative approaches during their residency. A Residency Research Project is a requirement of all Residents in the Department of SAMS, and the awarding of a Resident Certificate is dependent on completion of this project and acceptance for publication by March of the third year. Limited funds are available through the Pamela de Journo Endowment Fund for the residency research project, but grant submission for extramural grants is encouraged under faculty mentorship. In addition, residents are also expected to submit a minimum of four other first-author manuscripts for publication (clinical research or case reports) by March of their third year.

A major aim of this residency program is to graduate veterinarians who are eligible to take the ACZM or RCVS diploma examinations in zoological medicine. To attain this goal, it is necessary to complete the publication requirements for the examinations of the ACZM by March of the 3rd year. Assuming this goal is met, the resident will be eligible to sit the exam in the fall of the same year as completing the residency.

The successful candidate will be licensed to practice within the College of Veterinary Medicine by virtue of a faculty license. The faculty license permits veterinarians from non-AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) accredited vet schools to practice within the residency program of the hospital, and may be obtained without examination. [To obtain a regular Georgia state license, one must be a graduate of an AVMA-accredited institution or have completed the requirements of the ECFVG (Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates, <http://www.avma.org/defaultecfv.asp>) program of the AVMA, and take the Georgia State Board examination. The residency cannot be used to satisfy the clinical evaluation portion of the ECFVG because of the licensure requirements.]

International applicants are required to provide two official/certified copies of their academic records from each institution of higher education that the applicant has attended. These records must include all course work. Photocopies are not acceptable. Separate proof of degrees is also required. If the original language of the academic record is not English, a certified English translation must be attached to the original. Applicants who graduated from a non-English language veterinary school must submit official TOEFL scores (see <http://www.toefl.org> for details). These scores must not be more than two years old. Foreign applicants that have completed a year of academic study in the US can provide a university transcript in lieu of TOEFL scores. A valid US driving license is required.

All applications must be made through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians Veterinary Internship and Residency Matching Program, further details available from www.virmp.org. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact and/or visit the Exotic Animal, Wildlife & Zoological Medicine Service for further information. Alternatively, representatives from these facilities are usually present at the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, Association of Avian Veterinarians and Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians.

For questions about this program, please contact;

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