

RESIDENCY IN COMPARATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY

**Louisiana State University
School of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Veterinary Teaching Hospital**

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**RESIDENCY PROGRAM
IN
COMPARATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The residency in veterinary comparative ophthalmology is designed to provide three years of post-DVM training in the medical and surgical aspects of ophthalmology. Two-thirds of the training will be in clinical ophthalmology and the remaining one third will be used to develop and finish a research project, complete a refereed publication, attend a Basic Science Course and allow other scholarly activities to include attendance and presentation at scientific meetings. The residency will provide both clinical and research training. The training program will be supervised by Diplomate(s) of the ACVO and utilize faculty of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS) as mentors.
- 1.2** The residency will fulfill the training requirements and partially fulfill the requirements for examination (certification) of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.
- 1.3** Clinical facilities of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) will be the primary training location for the LSU portion of the residency.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1** To provide advanced training in clinical problem solving and diagnostic and therapeutic techniques in veterinary ophthalmology.
- 2.2** To provide didactic and tutorial teaching, training and experience.
- 2.3** To satisfy the requirements for examination by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ACVO) needed for board certification.
- 2.4** To provide experience in scientific and clinical case presentation through the seminar and house officer rounds program and participation in outside scientific meetings.
- 2.5** To provide experience in the preparation and submission of scientific articles for publication and/or presentation.
- 2.6** To provide experience in designing and conducting a clinical research project.
- 2.7** To provide the resident with the opportunity to enroll in a graduate level courses if elected to strengthen their clinical and research training.

- 2.8 To train the resident in the comparative aspects of veterinary ophthalmology through exposure to large and small domestic animals, animals used in laboratories and non-domestic animal species.
- 2.9 To provide the opportunity to become familiar with areas of parallel interest in human ophthalmology.

3.0 PREREQUISITES

- 3.1 Candidates must have a DVM/VMD or an equivalent degree.
- 3.2 The candidate must have satisfactorily completed at least a one-year rotating internship or its equivalent of post-graduate veterinary experience.
- 3.3 Candidates must have successfully completed the National Board Examination or its equivalent in the certifying country.
- 3.4 Candidates must have the goal of Board certification by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.

4.0 FACULTY MENTOR

- 4.1 The resident will be assigned to a faculty mentor/advisor who has diplomate status in the ACVO. Responsibilities of the mentor include the direction and coordination of the clinical program, provide advice on research, publications, and preparation for the ACVO Board Examination, and general counseling.

5.0 HOUSE OFFICER ROUNDS AND SEMINAR PROGRAM

- 5.1 The House Officer Rounds are designed to provide the resident with the opportunity to receive and present interesting, unusual, or difficult clinical case material utilizing a problem oriented approach to professional colleagues and to develop a manuscript for publication. The resident will participate with other VCS house officers on a rotating basis and will make at least 1 case presentation in House Officer Rounds during the year.
- 5.2 The House Officer Seminar series is designed to provide the resident with the opportunity to research and present scientific material to professional colleagues.
- 5.3 One seminar will be presented and given in each year of residency.
- 5.4 The seminar will include a written manuscript with references in a suitable form for publication that is to be forwarded electronically one week prior to the seminar to the faculty and house officers.
- 5.5 In the final year, the seminar topic will relate to original research conducted by the resident.

5.6 Attendance: The resident is required to attend and participate in the following: VMED 7001 (VCS Seminar), Grand Rounds, House Officer Rounds, other seminars that are requirements of the resident's home department and/or section.

5.6.1 VCS HO Rounds/Seminar Policy

5.6.1.1 HO attendance at all HO Rounds/Seminar sessions is required. HO attendance is required at only those rounds and seminars designated as VCS HO Rounds/Seminar sessions and that others occurring in the same time slot are not required by the House Officer Committee.

5.6.1.2 Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session.

5.6.1.3 HO will be required to present an additional seminar if they have more than one unexcused absence during the program year. All absences must be accounted for by completing a HO Leave Request Form and submitting it to the HOC chair.

5.6.1.4 Excused absences include the following: illness, annual leave, attendance or participation in a continuing education program, presentation of a student lecture, scheduled out-rotation or special service requirements per request of advisor. All other absences are unexcused unless deemed excusable by the HO advisor.

6.0 **TEACHING PROGRAM**

6.1 Throughout the program, residents will be viewed as role models by both interns and professional students. They should always present themselves in a professional manner.

6.2 The resident will participate in clinical instruction and in the evaluation of Phase II veterinary students assigned to the section.

6.3 The resident will participate in preclinical didactic lecture and laboratory instruction as assigned by his/her mentor.

7.0 **BOARD CERTIFICATION**

7.1 An important credential in veterinary medicine is board certification in a specialty area. One of the objectives of the program is to prepare the resident for certification by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists through clinical and surgical training and through participation in mentor-guided journal club and pathology rounds.

7.2 In order to qualify for examination the resident should refer to the published requirements of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.

8.0 CLINICAL PROGRAM

The resident's program will follow the Phase II professional teaching schedule, which is comprised of 12, 4 to 5 week, blocks. The first year of the residency program 85% will be committed to clinical ophthalmology training. The second year of the residency program, 80% will be dedicated to clinical ophthalmology training and the third year of the residency program, 75% will be dedicated to clinical training.

8.1 Year I Resident's Program

- 8.1.1** The resident will be assigned on clinical rotation for 85% of Year I with VCS faculty and supervised by a Diplomate of the ACVO. There will be 8 weeks off clinic duty in the form of four, 2-week blocks to be used at the resident's discretion for literature review, designing a clinical research project, seminar preparation or preparing for research. Scheduling of the off clinic time must be approved by the faculty in advance. Cases will be assigned to the resident from both the general and referral practices at the discretion of the faculty mentor.
- 8.1.2** The resident will function as a veterinary ophthalmologist in the VTH with direct supervision and guidance from faculty in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of ophthalmology cases. The goal of this training will be to develop problem oriented, evidence based skills in veterinary ophthalmology.
- 8.1.3** The resident will participate in the instruction of SVM Phase II veterinary students and interns. A minimum of one hour of didactic lecture will be provided to SVM Phase I veterinary students. Participation in SVM student laboratories will also be assigned.
- 8.1.4** The resident will participate with the mentor in ophthalmology service emergency duty during times assigned for clinical duty.
- 8.1.5** The resident will participate in house officer rounds, special topic conferences, seminars, and other scheduled conferences of the Small and Large Animal Clinics.
- 8.1.6** The resident will present one case presentation and one seminar (to faculty and house officers) on an ophthalmology topic of interest to the resident and as agreed to by their faculty mentor.
- 8.1.7** The resident is encouraged to attend the ACVO or other professional meeting each year during the 3 year program with the advice and approval of his/her faculty mentor. Participation in the Resident's Forum of the ACVO Annual Meeting is encouraged. Expenses for these meetings will be the responsibility of the resident.

- 8.1.8** The resident is encouraged to attend and participate in continuing education meetings sponsored by the SVM, local, and regional veterinary organizations.
- 8.1.9** The resident is required to prepare a research proposal; review it with his/her faculty mentor, and submit it for funding consideration.
- 8.1.10** The resident may, with the approval of the resident's advisor, course coordinator and the ophthalmology faculty, participate in clinically relevant graduate courses. Course work must not interfere with the clinical and instructional responsibilities of the resident.
- 8.1.11** Each month, the resident will participate in 2 one-hour-long journal clubs with the ophthalmology faculty. Journal club topics will include clinical literature, research literature, slide interpretation and basic science topics important to the understanding of comparative ophthalmology.
- 8.1.12** The resident will participate in a minimum of one-hour-long histopathology rounds monthly with a board certified (ACVP) pathologist and the ophthalmology faculty.
- 8.1.13** Surgical training will begin early in the training program. It is recommended that the resident obtain cadaver eyes with lids for extraocular surgery practice to include adnexal procedures and conjunctival grafting techniques. The resident should schedule time with the clinical faculty for practice sessions and review of these procedures. Following adequate performance of these procedures, the resident will be assisted by the faculty ophthalmologist with these surgeries on VTH clinical patients. Assistance by the VCS faculty will continue as deemed necessary by the faculty and as requested by the resident.

Intraocular surgical experience is gained through a graduated, step-by-step process that begins with reading assignments during the first month of the program. After discussion of the reading materials with the mentors, the resident then practices basic surgical techniques on cadaver eyes. The resident must practice each step of the common procedures until they can be completed in an acceptable fashion as judged by the mentors (see Appendix 18.16.1). It is expected, the resident will be supervised during all intraocular procedures until late in the second year of the program. It is anticipated that the resident will be performing lens extractions on clinical patients by the second year of the program. The resident is required to maintain a surgical log for the ACVO, documenting surgical experience. The surgical procedures performed with an operating microscope will be routinely video-recorded and will be used to critique and monitor the resident's progress in surgical training.

- 8.1.14** During the first month of the program, the resident should, with the guidance from the mentors, schedule their reading of manuscripts and textbooks for the coming 3 years. Review sessions will take place on a quarterly basis. Each review session will allow the mentors ask the resident questions pertaining to the assigned material. During each session, pertinent texts and manuscripts are covered. The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that the resident's board study progresses on schedule.
- 8.1.15** The resident must participate in the Veterinary Basic Science Course in June of the first or second year of residency. The Ophthalmology section will make an effort to support the costs of tuition; however, remuneration for the costs of tuition for the course will depend on available funding from the VCS Department, ACVO, and other sources. Tuition will ultimately be the responsibility of the resident. Travel and housing must be provided by the resident.
- 8.1.16** A quarterly activities report must be filled out and turned into the faculty mentor/advisor at the quarterly evaluation meeting.

8.2 Year II Resident's Program

- 8.2.1** The resident will be assigned on clinical rotation for approximately 80% of Year II with VCS faculty and supervised by a Diplomate of the ACVO. Five, two-week blocks of non-clinic time will be scheduled, and utilized for scholarly activity (research, seminar preparation, publication, scientific meetings, attending the Basic Science Course, and preparation for the ACVO board examination).
- 8.2.2** See 8.1.2 through 8.1.6
- 8.2.3** The resident is required to present a clinical or research paper at the annual meeting of the ACVO during the second year of the program. Presentation of the results of their research project at the ACVO meeting during or immediately after the third year of the program is also encouraged.
- 8.2.4** See 8.1.8
- 8.2.5** The resident will submit one paper to a refereed journal for publication. Topic considerations should be discussed with his/her mentor prior to working on the manuscript.
- 8.2.6** The resident will begin or continue the research project if funding has been obtained.
- 8.2.7** See 8.1.10 through 8.1.16

8.3 Year III Resident's Program

- 8.3.1** The resident will be assigned on clinical rotation for approximately 75% of Year III with VCS faculty and supervised by a Diplomate of the ACVO. The resident will spend 2 blocks as chief clinician and run the service. An ophthalmology faculty mentor will be available during this time for assistance and consultation. Six, two-week blocks of non-clinic time will be scheduled and utilized for scholarly activity (research, seminar preparation, publication, scientific meetings, and preparation for ACVO board examination).
- 8.3.2** See 8.1.2 through 8.1.8
- 8.3.3** The resident will revise any manuscript(s) that were submitted in years I or II and resubmit them as needed for publication. The resident will submit another paper to a refereed journal for publication. Topic considerations should be discussed with his/her mentor prior to working on the manuscript.
- 8.3.4** See 8.1.10 through 8.1.14
- 8.3.5** By the third year, the resident will be able to perform most ophthalmic surgical procedures without direct supervision of the mentors. Lens extraction techniques will be assisted by a faculty ophthalmologist as deemed necessary by the faculty member on duty. The ophthalmology faculty will be available for consultation or assistance during all procedures performed by the resident. A surgical case log will be maintained for all procedures in which the resident is involved.
- 8.3.6** See 8.1.16
- 8.3.7** The resident will be encouraged to submit all necessary credentials for the Board Examination to the ACVO Credentials Committee prior to January 1 of Year III.

8.4 Out Rotation

- 8.4.1** Outside rotations can be valuable to a resident in giving them an opportunity to gain further knowledge. It is also a way for the resident to see alternative approaches to a problem. The resident may spend 2-4 weeks of the second year on an out-rotation at an ACVO-certified training program approved by the resident's mentor. This out-rotation is optional and can be spent instead, performing research at another institution approved in advance by the resident's mentor.
- 8.4.2** The arrangements for the outside rotation are left up to the resident but the plan must be approved in advance by the resident's mentor.
- 8.4.3** The following requirements must be met by the resident during or upon return from an outside rotation:

- 8.4.3.1 A case log must be kept or a complete notebook of any research performed
- 8.4.3.2 An evaluation of the resident must be submitted by the primary mentor involved in the outside rotation
- 8.4.3.3 The resident must submit a written evaluation of the outside rotation to the ophthalmology faculty
- 8.4.3.4 A seminar on a topic pertaining to the outside rotation will be given at house officer rounds

9.0 RESEARCH PROJECT

- 9.1 The program requires its resident to participate in scholarly activity such as basic, applied or clinical research. The resident is required to:
 - 9.1.1 Design a research project to address a specific question or problem in ophthalmology.
 - 9.1.2 Write a research grant proposal to seek funding for the project.
 - 9.1.3 Conduct the research according to the experimental design.
 - 9.1.4 Analyze and report the results of the project
 - 9.1.5 Publication of these results in a refereed journal is strongly encouraged.

10.0 GRADUATE PROGRAM

Not applicable

11.0 ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES

11.1 Resident Intraocular Surgery Training Guidelines

The following is a suggested schedule to assist the resident in the timely development of intraocular surgery skills in Year I. The goal is to attain the minimum level of competency necessary to perform intraocular surgery (primarily lens extractions) by the second year. It is the resident's responsibility to keep current on the schedule and obtain mentor approval prior to progressing to the next step.

11.1.1 July-August

- 11.1.1.1 Familiarization with intraocular instruments; study standard surgical texts including Eisner's Principle's of Surgery, Jaffe's Cataract Surgery and Its Complications, and Troutman's text on Anterior Segment Surgery.

11.1.1.2 Assist faculty with intraocular surgery, set up for intraocular surgical procedures, review phacoemulsification tapes.

11.1.2 September- December

11.1.2.1 Perform corneal and limbal incision on enucleated eyes and practice suturing. Perform anterior capsulotomies following standard approach and close incision. Perform conjunctival grafts on enucleated eyes. Review completed procedures with ophthalmology faculty.

11.1.3 January-March

11.1.3.1 Perform phacoemulsification on enucleated eyes. Perform penetrating and non-penetrating keratoplasties and conjunctival grafts on enucleated eyes. Begin incision and entry on clinical patients.

11.1.3.2 Review phacoemulsification tapes. Set up for procedure. Videotape small incision procedure on enucleated eyes with needle capsulotomy and phacoemulsification on Wednesday afternoons following the day's surgery and review with faculty member. Tape closure of the wound for faculty to review.

11.1.4 April-June

11.1.4.1 Begin incision, entry and capsulotomy on clinical cases. Continue closure in clinical cases. Videotape procedures and review with faculty.

11.1.5 July-September (Year II)

11.1.5.1 Begin partial phacoemulsification on clinical cases. Begin irrigation-aspiration technique on clinical cases. Videotape procedure for faculty review.

11.1.6 October-

11.1.6.1 Resident should be capable of completing procedure from start to finish with faculty assistance.

12.0 EVALUATION AND REAPPOINTMENT

12.1 An evaluation will be provided by the block mentor at the end of each assigned block through the E*Value software. A summary evaluation will be made quarterly by the faculty in conjunction with the resident's advisor. The evaluation covers:

- 12.1.1** Professional ability; to include theoretical knowledge and application of that knowledge, clinical skills, surgical abilities, tutorial skills, and scholarly activity.
- 12.1.2** Hospital services; to include communication skills, patient care, medical record quality, emergency duty quality, and adherence to VTH protocol.
- 12.1.3** Personal characteristics; to include responsibility, initiative, interaction with faculty, staff and students, deportment and leadership.
- 12.2** The resident and faculty mentors will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss their progress and written evaluations. The ACVO requires that the Diplomate provide the resident with a written progress evaluation at 6-month intervals. A copy of these evaluations must be forwarded to the ACVO Residency Committee Chairperson. Additionally, both the Diplomate(s) and the resident(s) will be required to complete 6-month review evaluations of the residency program. Data from this evaluation will assist the ACVO Residency Committee in guiding the residency program to better fulfill the program requirements.
- 12.3** At any time in the resident's program, and at the latest in March of each year, the House Officer Committee will review all evaluations to date. Following that review, the committee will make a recommendation to the Head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences to:
 - 12.3.1** Continue the appointment until the next review
 - 12.3.2** Award a certificate upon satisfactory completion of the program.
 - 12.3.3** Not to reappoint the resident, with a minimum of 30 days notice of termination. At the discretion of the House Officer Committee and in consultation with the resident's service, guidelines can be formulated that if met, may allow the resident to be re-instated at the end of the specified period.
- 12.4** All House Officers are required to complete an annual evaluation of their program with suggestions for improvement before continuation or completion of their program is granted.

13.0 HOUSE OFFICER COMMITTEE

- 13.1** The Committee is comprised of a representative of each House Officer program. It is responsible for the year-end review of each house officer's progress. This review is based on block evaluations received throughout the course of the program. The Committee grants recommendation for reappointment or a certificate to those who successfully complete the program.
- 13.2** All House Officers are required to complete an annual evaluation of their program with suggestions for improvement before continuation or

completion of their program is granted.

14.0 EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS

- 14.1** Louisiana State University classifies interns and residents as University employees. As such, they (and their eligible dependents) qualify for the Louisiana State University Baton Rouge health insurance and benefits. The School of Veterinary Medicine provides malpractice insurance coverage. The salary (not a stipend) is published in the Directory of Internships and Residencies as published by the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians (www.virmp.org). Salary is payable in monthly increments via direct deposit. Retirement contributions are required and withheld from each paycheck. No social security tax is withheld. Federal and state income tax is withheld. The employee may be eligible to petition the IRS for exemption from federal tax on part of his/her salary.
- 14.2** The Veterinary Teaching Hospital operates year round. House officers will share emergency duty with other house officers within their specialty. House Officers will also share evening, weekend and holiday duty on a scheduled basis.
- 14.3** The University offers accrual of annual time off following either the University accrual rate (14 hours/month with a maximum accumulation of 176 hours) or the Civil Service Schedule rate (8 hours/month with no maximum accumulation). Sick time off accrual is 8 hours/month. All time off, except for illness and emergencies, should be requested and approved 30 days in advance. Time off requests must be entered into Workday (via the employee's MyLSU account) by the employee and approved by the supervisor before time off will be granted. Annual time off will be granted on an individual basis taking into account the reason for the requested absence and the needs of the service and hospital. Annual time off for personal business is to be taken during elective or research blocks. Emergency absence such as for illness or a death in the immediate family should be brought to the attention of the clinician to whom the House Officer is assigned as soon as the House Officer learns that he/she will be absent. The official request should be entered into Workday upon the House Officer's return. Except in unusual circumstances, approval will not be granted for time off during the final month of the program.
- 14.4** Reappointment to the second and third years of the residency program is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the previous year's requirements.

15.0 APPLICATION

- 15.1** Candidates may apply for the Residency in Comparative Ophthalmology by completing:
- 15.1.1** A standard residency application through www.virmp.org.
 - 15.1.2** A statement of residency objectives and subsequent career goals.
 - 15.1.3** Official academic transcripts.
 - 15.1.4** Three letters of reference from individuals currently familiar with

the applicant's professional status. At least one of the referees should be a Diplomate of the ACVO.

15.1.5 A curriculum vitae.

16.0 APPENDICES

16.1 HOUSE OFFICER ROUNDS EVALUATION FORM

House Officer: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator: _____

| | <u>Evaluation</u> E=Excellent G=Good N=Needs Improvement | <u>Comments</u> |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Case Selection | | |
| Complexity of case | | |
| Appropriate follow-up | | |
| Content | | |
| Format of presentation | | |
| Discussion | | |
| Conclusions | | |
| Use of problem-oriented approach | | |
| Delivery | | |
| Clarity of speech | | |
| Rate of delivery | | |
| Effectiveness of Visual Presentation | | |
| Use of visual aids | | |
| Body language and enthusiasm | | |
| Questions handled appropriately | | |

Additional Comments:

16.2 VCS SEMINAR EVALUATION FORM

Presenter: _____ **Date:** _____

Audience: _____

Title/Topic: _____

Evaluation Criteria:

| | Points | Evaluation |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Definition of subject: introduction, importance, clinical significance | 0-5 | |
| Organization | 0-10 | |
| Quality of material | 0-10 | |
| Presence: speaking ability | | |
| Clarity | 0-10 | |
| Rate of delivery | 0-10 | |
| Enthusiasm, expressiveness | 0-10 | |
| Support Materials | | |
| Handouts, manuscript | 0-15 | |
| Visual aids | 0-5 | |
| Appropriate Summary | 0-5 | |
| Presentation consistent with audience level | 0-10 | |
| Questions/discussion handled appropriately | 0-10 | |
| | Total | |

Comments:

Evaluator: _____

16.4 HOUSE OFFICER BLOCK EVALUATION FORM (E-Value)

| <u>House Officer Evaluation Form in E-Value</u> | Needs Improvement | Satisfactory | Good | Excellent | Not Applicable |
|---|-------------------|--------------|------|-----------|----------------|
| Professional Ability | | | | | |
| Theoretical Knowledge | | | | | |
| Knowledge Application | | | | | |
| Skills | | | | | |
| Patient Care | | | | | |
| Thoroughness | | | | | |
| Individual Characteristics | | | | | |
| Communication with clinicians | | | | | |
| Communication with students | | | | | |
| Communication with staff | | | | | |
| Independent study & initiative | | | | | |
| Awareness of current literature | | | | | |
| Contribution to student education | | | | | |
| Performance under stress | | | | | |
| Ability to accept criticism | | | | | |
| Organizational skills | | | | | |
| Ability to work in a team | | | | | |
| Reliability | | | | | |
| Motivation | | | | | |
| Attendance at seminars & rounds | | | | | |
| Presentation at seminars & rounds | | | | | |
| Ability to make independent decisions | | | | | |
| Hospital Service | | | | | |
| Completion of duties | | | | | |
| Quality of work | | | | | |
| Emergency services duty | | | | | |
| Communication with veterinarians | | | | | |
| Client communication | | | | | |
| Referral letters & record keeping | | | | | |
| Acceptance of service & case responsibility | | | | | |
| Adherence to VTH protocol | | | | | |
| Strengths: | | | | | |
| Areas for Improvement: | | | | | |