

# Do I wanna do an internship/ residency?

Drs. Textor, Rusiecki,  
Haggett, Poulin, Higgins,  
Finno, Dechant....



# What are internships and residencies?

## **Internship:**

- 1 year
- broad-based program
- Matching program or independent.
- Private-practice or university.

## **Residency:**

- Follows internship
- US programs are for specialist training in a certain discipline
- Doing a residency does not make you a certified specialist
- Most (large-animal) are UNIVERSITY



# What areas can I specialize in?

(These specialties are referred to as “colleges”, made up of “diplomates”)

- Medicine (ACVIM) 2-3 yrs
- Medicine: Neurology
- Medicine: Cardiology
- Medicine: Oncology
- Dermatology (ACVD) 2 yrs
- Surgery (ACVS) 3 yrs
- Ophthalmology (ACVO) 2-3 yrs
- Anesthesiology (ACVA) 3 yrs
- Radiology (ACVR) 3-4 yrs
  - Radiation oncology
- Pathology\* (ACVP) 4 yrs
  - Clinical
  - Anatomic
- Critical Care\* (ACVECC)



# More specialities...

- General Practice\* (ABVP)
- Dentistry\* (AVDC)
- Microbiology\* (ACVM)
- Pharmacology\* (ACVCP)
- Behavior (ACVB)
- Zoologic Medicine\* (ACZM)
- Theriogenology\* (ACT)
- Poultry (ACPV)
- Preventive Medicine\* (ACVPM)
- Nutrition\* (ACVN)
- Lab Animal Medicine (ACLAM) 2 yrs
- Toxicology\* (ABVT)



# Who should do an internship or a residency?

- Someone who WANTS to!
- (stop the momentum/peer pressure/competitive cycle and ASK YOURSELF!)
- If you have a family or financial obligations (house payment), consider this choice very carefully.



# Why should I do an internship or a residency?

- **Internship:** Because you want further training after graduation, usually with more exposure to referral practice.
- **Residency:** Because you want to be a specialist.



Where I can do an internship or a residency?

At a university or a private practice



# Where I can do an internship or a residency?

## ■ “The Match”

- The Matching program (VIRMP) is an intermediary between applicants and programs.
- Most university programs and some private practices are in “the match”.
- Set calendar/deadlines

## ■ Outside the Match

- Anyone can offer an internship
- Only approved programs can offer a residency which will qualify candidates to become specialists of an American college.
- Applications and deadlines are set by the individual program.



# What is the VIRMP?

- Veterinary Internship Residency Matching Program
- [www.virmp.org/virmp/](http://www.virmp.org/virmp/)
- Submit applications to your choices
- \$65
- December 5, 2006 Applications to institutions due
- January 16, 2007 Applicant Rank Order List Due/Last day for applicant to withdraw - **11:59 p.m. EST**
- January 22, 2007 Institution Rank Order List Due/Last day to withdraw positions - **11:59 p.m. EST**
- March 5, 2007 Match results released - **8:00 a.m. EST**
  
- “...it shall be considered a violation of ... commonly expected professional ethical standards, for an institution or an applicant to withdraw from the matching program after the published deadline for withdrawal.”



# How do I choose?

- Have a general idea of your interests when you graduate, but be open to surprises.
- Location?
- Ultimate goal? Residency vs. practice.
- Go visit.
- Talk to current or past interns.
- Ask around for reputation.



# How do I choose?


## Internship Program Disclosure Form

1. Do your interns have **primary case responsibility**?
2. Do your interns have an assigned **mentor**?
3. Do your interns receive formal performance **evaluations**?
4. Do you conduct **teaching rounds** with your interns?
5. Are Interns permitted to attend **Continuing Education** courses?
6. Are your interns required to present formal seminars?



# How do I choose?

7. Do your interns participate in a **journal club**?
8. Do your interns have access to an in-house **library**?
9. Are your interns provided with a **computer** to use?
10. Do your interns perform surgery?
11. Does the practice have a 24-hour **emergency** care service?
12. What percentage of the internship does the intern spend on emergency duty?
13. Does the practice employ formally trained veterinary technicians?
14. Do your interns have access to the following **equipment/technology**, either on-site or outsourced?



# What should I do now if I want to be a competitive applicant for an internship?

- Be a good student in class and on clinics.
- Get along with others.
- Become involved in the clinic or in research.
- Consider early visits to practices, before you are a senior.



# What about my student loans?

- Economic hardship deferment
- Forbearance



# What's the take-home?

- Doing advanced specialty training does not make you a good doctor.
- Being a good doctor does not require advanced specialty training.



# What's the take-home?

- In general, advanced training provides you with more exposure to cases, skills, and techniques, in a shorter time, than going into practice.