EXTERNSHIP APPLICATION OVERVIEW

To be eligible for the externship at the Dubai equine Hospital, you must be either on your last year or about to start your last year in your veterinary medicine training. English is the language spoken by the doctors and staff. It is essential that you be able to speak, understand and write in the English language.

Graduate Veterinarians are not eligible. Our program is designed for students who seriously intend to enter equine practice therefore two letters of reference from equine veterinarians or faculty is required. Academic transcripts and the fully completed application form are also required. The application must be completed online using Dubai Equine Hospital website. Applicants are encouraged to apply at least six months in advance and should indicate two or more months that they are available to participate.

The externship is for a period of one month, starting at the beginning of the month. One student is selected for each month, creating twelve externship opportunities each year. Because we strive for cultural diversity, applications are received from veterinary students worldwide. Generally no more than two students are selected from the same country each year. Acceptance is not influenced by gender of the applicant. These factors along with the quality of applicants make the program dynamic and competitive.

Each accepted extern student receives a visa, round-trip air ticket to Dubai from a major airport in their home country and accommodation at the hospital.

HOSPITAL PRACTICE AND DESCRIPTION

The Dubai Equine Hospital is located in Dubai, one of seven emirates comprising the United Arab Emirates. The hospital was founded in 1995 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai and Vice-President of the UAE.

Originally created to provide veterinary care for local horses the DEH has had to adapt and grow at the same speed the number of horses has grown and currently not only attends the local community but the hundreds of horses that arrive each year to compete in the various equestrian events in the emirate.

The majority of the horse population in Dubai participates in either endurance or flat races, however there are several other athletic modalities in practice in Dubai including Showjumping, Dressage and Polo; also to compliment the variety of the service provided the DEH serves several Arab-breeding farms.

The DEH is not only a referring facility but a complete equine service community. There are 6 in-house veterinarians receiving the cases sent by the DEH’s 22 field-veterinarians’ service and the rest of the area’s equine veterinarians.
The DEH is at the highest international standards fully equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical equipment. It features orthopedic and soft tissue operating rooms, clinical pathology laboratory, digital radiography, scintigraphy and MRI units, videoendoscopy, diagnostic ultrasound and Nd: YAG-laser. It has a total of 49 stables divided into ICU unit, quarantine, isolation and basic care.

The Dubai Equine Hospital externship program provides a unique opportunity for selected veterinary students to gain experience at a first class equine referral facility.

**EXPECTATIONS**

This externship may at times involve long hours and commitment, but for the motivated student it will be a great educational experience in a state of the art equine referral practice. The extern “shadows” and assists the intern doctors for many of the routine tasks and patient care in the hospital.

The Dubai Equine Hospital regards the externship as an opportunity to be with clinicians that have training and experience in specific fields. The role of the extern will be to observe the outpatient and inpatient diagnostics, surgery and treatment procedures, assisting where appropriate. Additionally their duties will include monitoring and administration of treatments of surgical and non-surgical hospitalized patients. Good discussions of clinical findings during diagnostic workup and treatment strategies for case management are integral components of the extern program.

We strive for high quality patient diagnostics and care in a relaxed, team-oriented hospital environment. While we encourage a good sense of humor in the hospital, we are very serious about the professional service that we provide. The doctors are easy to approach and will always do their best to discuss questions that you may have.

**HOSPITAL DUTIES**

The externship is a very short work experience program so expect to be available 24 hours a day every day of your stay. Although the externship does not include time for sightseeing and visiting in Dubai we do our best to make sure the extern has opportunities to sample local culture and life in Dubai.

Extern duties will depend somewhat upon the time of the year of your stay. Externs participate in hospital night duties and emergencies. We make every effort to vary the routine so that externs may spend some time with doctors in the field practice but is not always possible. Externs’ specific duties and expectations are outlined and explained on their first day during an orientation briefing.

Some general areas of responsibilities are as follows:-
WORK STATIONS.- There are two workstations in the exam area. Although the hospital has an excellent daily janitorial service, each workstation should be checked and kept clean and tidy.

SURGERY DUTIES.- After each surgery, while the horse is in recovery, the extern should help with cleaning instruments.

HEMATOLOGY LABORATORY.- Externs are oriented to laboratory protocols and procedures by the Lab Technician and intern. They are encouraged to offer their assistance or may be asked to perform certain blood analyses for after-hours emergencies.

RACE MEETINGS.- Since the DEH attends several Flat and Endurance races there might be opportunity for the extern to attend and observe at this events during the racing season.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
At the end of the externship, externs are given a letter of their participation in the program, a description of their role in our hospital during their visit, and an overall assessment of their performance. Externs who fail to maintain the standards outlined in this guide or who abuse our hospitality, will have their externship terminated and will receive an assessment reflecting their performance.
GENERAL INFORMATION

1. DRESS
As with all the staff at the hospital, you will be expected to maintain a neat, clean and professional appearance. Jeans and tennis shoes are fine provided they are not ripped, rayed or worn out. Ironed Polo shirts are permissible. Women should be aware of the conservative culture in this Islamic country. Tank tops, shirts with low necklines or short shirts exposing the midriff are not appropriate. Shorts are not acceptable during the workday in the hospital.

The sun is quite strong every day of the year so sunglasses and sunscreen are highly recommended. Nights and early mornings can be chilly during the winter (December until March) and it may rain occasionally. If you are visiting during this period, plan to pack a jacket and sweatshirts. By contrast, the temperatures during the summer months (May to September) generally exceed 100 °F (38°C) so cool clothing is recommended.

Racing at Meydan racetrack is held 1-2 nights each week from November to late March. People dress very nicely for racing and you will be expected to do as well.

2. CUSTOMS / CULTURE
Arabic is the official language of the UAE, but English is widely used. In Muslim countries Friday is a holy day and therefore is a day off. Schools, banks, post office and some shops are closed. Our hospital however is fully operational seven days a week. Gambling is illegal. Alcohol is available in Hotels and selected clubs only. Alcohol is not permitted within the hospital's compound.

The month of Ramadan is observed and is a special holy time, Muslims practice fasting during the day and other associated customs according to Islam. Non-Muslims are forbidden to eat, drink or smoke in public during daylight hours of Ramadan.

3. ACCOMMODATION
The hospital has a comfortable studio on the grounds for externs to stay in during their visit. Externs are expected to leave their accommodation in the same condition as when they arrived. Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the hospital including the accommodation room. Overnight visitors are not permitted in any area of the hospital.

4. TELEPHONES
Each apartment has a phone that can call local numbers. Press 9 to get an outside line then dial the number. Each veterinarian and technical staff has a mobile phone and can be contacted easily. If you need to call home after you arrive, it can be arranged with the receptionists or the interns after hours.
5. LAUNDRY
The hospital has a staffed laundry facility. Externs can use this service for their personal clothes. A word of warning however, our laundry man is used to washing hospital linens. If you have delicate clothes or items that are especially valuable to you, you might want to wait until you return home to have them cleaned or they can be sent out locally. The hospital does not accept responsibility for the well-intentioned mistakes of our laundry man.

6. MEALS
The hospital has a cook and an assistant. Meals are provided during your stay. We serve Indian cuisine. If the food is too spicy, the cook will prepare your meals differently if you speak to him. The apartment is supplied with basics such as tea, coffee, sugar, milk, cereal, etc. If you wish to prepare food in the apartment you may purchase goods at a nearby supermarket at your own expense.

7. VISA AND AIR TICKET
The hospital arranges for a 30-day visit visa and round trip airline ticket from a major airport in your home country. These are issued specifically for an externship and once issued cannot be altered. Do not expect to extend your stay in Dubai or change your travel itinerary.

8. TRANSPORTATION
A hospital driver will meet you at the airport when you arrive and drop you off when you depart. The drivers are very busy and their duties do not include driving externs. If you wish to sightsee and there is time available taxi service is inexpensive and readily available. Should you need to go to the supermarket for supplies, please speak to the interns, as they often will accommodate the student.

Externs are not allowed to drive hospital vehicles under any circumstances.

9. COURTESY
Externs are considered guests at the hospital and are expected to treat all personnel courteously and with respect. It takes a large staff of people in different roles to run a hospital. Externs should not only be helpful but also maintain a good attitude and high level of professionalism.

10. MEDICAL
Externs should make arrangements at their home country to have a medical travel insurance in place before their arrival to Dubai.

11. VISITORS
Family or friends of the extern are not allowed in the hospital without prior approval from Dr. Dionisio Felix.