

The Emergency and Critical Care Residency in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Texas A&M University combines ample clinical experience with theoretical knowledge. The heavy ECC caseload allows for primary management of both emergent and hospitalized critical patients, as well as interfacing with the management of cases on other services. Dedicated time for didactic learning is fundamental to the program, integrating the framework necessary to pass the ECC boards exam. We are very proud of our residency program and our program boasts a 100% first-time board examination passage rate.

The ECC residency at TAMU is a three-year standard track residency. The program is currently supported by three ACVECC diplomates and currently trains 3 residents. Drs. Medora Pashmakova, Christine Rutter and James Barr each mentor residents directly on the clinic floor and during the residency to provide guidance in completion of the requirements for board certification. This residency combines a large caseload and a world-class hospital with renowned specialists in all fields to assist in training. Completion of the program will provide the resident with the opportunity to obtain the necessary credentials for taking the ACVECC board certification examination. A competitive internship or equivalent experience is required for consideration. Acceptance into the second and third years of the program will be dependent upon successful completion of the previous year's program, as assessed by regular evaluations during and at the end of each year.

The goal of this program is to nurture the development of forward and critically thinking specialists in ECCM. This development includes fostering the ability to communicate with colleagues about the complicated physiology and pathophysiology of critical care. The publication of a first-author paper is a necessary for completion of the program and involvement in research during the residency is a departmental requirement. The publication must be acceptable to the critical care faculty members and should be in a journal considered acceptable by the Credentials Committee of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. The design, implementation, and documentation of a research project and its presentation at a national meeting is expected.

Emphasis is on the management of a heavy caseload, with approximately 50% of ECC rotations spent as part of the team overseeing the critical care unit and 50% on primary ER duty. The critical care resident is often responsible for assisting with cases requiring ventilation or having special intensive care requirements such as peritoneal dialysis or post-arrest and resuscitation management. The hospital has available advanced diagnostics relevant to ECCM including 3T MRI, 24/7 CT, thromboelastography, platelet function testing, osmometry, several NOVA analyzers, and digital radiography.

The residents are regularly responsible for the supervision and teaching of students and interns during cageside rounds and emergency receiving shifts. Residents present lectures to the college, interns and the nursing staff in their respective lecture series. The emergency critical care service holds twice weekly didactic rounds which cover physiology and pathophysiology topics, as well as review of current literature and morbidity and mortality rounds. These sessions are geared toward board review. Other

specialty services and the house officers in the hospital also have regular didactic sessions. The residents are encouraged to join those sessions.

All clinical residents in the Small Animal Department hold appointments as Veterinary Resident Instructors. Residents are expected to provide patient care and teaching assistance in the clinical programs of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Faculty will make extensive efforts to provide an outstanding program, but the ultimate responsibility for value gained from the program lies with the resident.

The training objectives for residents in emergency and critical care are as follows:

- Provide the resident with the opportunity to become proficient in advanced diagnostic and therapeutic methods.
- Permit the resident to satisfy the requirements for board certification set forth by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC).
- Train the resident in the preparation and delivery of effective scientific communication (e.g., seminars, lectures, abstract presentations).

Resident Advisor

The resident will work closely with their mentor who is an emergency and critical care faculty member. The resident advisor will guide the candidate to register with the ACVECC and mentor them through the reporting requirements of the ACVECC. Members of the TAMU ECC faculty have and currently hold positions in the committee structure and governance of the ACVECC Board of Regents and have been involved in credentialing of ECC candidates worldwide.

Responsibilities of Advisors

- Ensure that the resident is aware of all requirements of the residency program and options that are available.
- Supervise completion of the residency requirements of both the University and ACVECC
- Suggest reading material and study schedules to aid in preparation for the board examination
- Communicate appropriate feedback to the resident regarding his/her continued progress in the program. Although encouraged at other times as well, feedback to the resident will be provided twice yearly by each of the ECC faculty members.

Appointment

The academic rank of the resident will be Veterinary Resident Instructor.

Salaries and Benefits

- Salaries are determined annually by the Head of the Department. They are standard for all residents in the Department of Veterinary Small Animal Clinical Sciences, and currently salaries increase with each year of service.
- Residents may participate in the University's medical-surgical insurance program.

- All courtesies, such as athletic ticket purchases, use of university facilities, etc., are the same as for other faculty

Duties and Responsibilities

The residency is designed to exceed the requirements of the ACVECC according to the current ACVECC Residency Standards that may be found at:

<http://acvecc.org/blog/standards-and-guidelines/>

- Residents are required to participate in the provision of emergency services by the Small Animal Hospital outside of normal clinical duties. This may include providing backup to interns on emergency cases and taking complicated, intense cases (e.g. ventilator cases) directly. The schedule will be assigned by the Chief Resident using a rotating schedule. Variations in assignments may occur if necessary to facilitate the function of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- Residents are expected to present 6 hours of didactic teaching and 6 hours of laboratory teaching over the course of the 3-year program. Additionally, presentation in service rounds are required as well.
- Residents will occasionally be expected to assist in didactic and laboratory instruction of students in the professional curriculum. They shall not head or have major teaching responsibilities for any course, elective, or didactic.
- Participation in phone consultations with veterinarians/clients will be required. Responsibility will increase as the program progresses.
- Holiday duty assignments will be determined by the Chief of Medicine and the Head Resident.

Service Rotation and Educational Program

The clinic schedule is based on a 48 week academic year; 4 weeks each year are counted as Holiday time, and cover Christmas, New Year and Spring Break. House officers are required to work at least 2 of these 4 weeks every year, on a rotating schedule.