

# **RESIDENCY IN ZOOLOGICAL MEDICINE & SURGERY**

**Louisiana State University  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences  
Veterinary Teaching Hospital,  
Audubon Institute, &  
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo**

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**RESIDENCY PROGRAM  
IN  
VETERINARY THERIOGENOLOGY**

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

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Bird, Zoo and Exotic Animal residency at Louisiana State University, School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) is designed to provide three years of post-DVM training in avian and exotic animal medicine and surgery. This will partially fulfill the requirements for examination (board certification) in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, Specialty Avian Practice and the American College Zoological Medicine.
- 1.2 The training program will utilize faculty of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS), other participating departments, the Audubon Institute and BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo as mentors. Clinical facilities of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), the Audubon Institute and BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo will be the primary training location.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 To provide advanced training in clinical problem solving and diagnostic and therapeutic techniques in avian, exotic and zoo animal medicine and surgery.
- 2.2 To provide didactic and tutorial teaching training and experience.
- 2.3 To satisfy the requirements for examination by the ABVP.
- 2.4 To provide experience in scientific and clinical case presentation through the seminar and house officer rounds program.
- 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 opportunity to participate in graduate level courses that support and strengthen the clinical training program and obtain an advanced academic degree, M.S. or Ph.D.

**3.0 PREREQUISITES**

- 3.1 Candidate must have a DVM or an equivalent degree.
- 3.2 Candidate must have satisfactorily completed at least a one year rotating

small animal internship or equivalent post-graduate veterinary training.

- 3.3 Candidates must have successfully completed the National Board examination or its equivalent and a state board examination or its equivalent
- 3.4 Candidates must have the goal of board-certification.
- 3.5 Candidates must be academically acceptable for admission to the Graduate School in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences if a Master of Sciences Degree is to be pursued.

#### **4.0 FACULTY MENTOR**

- 4.1 The resident will be assigned to a faculty mentor assigned to the Bird, Zoo and Exotic Animal Service. Responsibilities of the mentor include direction and coordination of the clinical program, advice toward research, publication, advanced degree and preparation for ABVP board examinations, and general counseling.

#### **5.0 HOUSE OFFICER ROUNDS AND SEMINAR PROGRAM**

- 5.1 The House Officer Rounds are designed to provide the resident the opportunity to receive and present interesting, unusual, or difficult clinical case material utilizing a problem oriented approach to professional colleagues and to develop manuscripts 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. One seminar will be presented and given in each year of the residency. The seminar will include a written manuscript with references in a form suitable for a publication. In the final year, the seminar topic will relate to original research conducted by the resident.
- 5.3 An SVM faculty member(s) will be selected by the resident to mentor both case presentations and seminar preparation. Manuscripts submitted for publication will be reviewed, revised and coauthored by a SVM faculty member(s).
- 5.4 Attendance: The resident is required to attend and participate in the following: VMED 7001 (VCS Seminar), Grand Rounds, House Officer Rounds, and other seminars that are requirements of the resident's home department and/or section.
- 5.5 VCS HO Rounds/Seminar Policy
  - 5.5.1 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.

**5.5.2** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session.

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

**5.5.4** 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 year IV veterinary students assigned to Bird, Zoo and Exotic Animal rotations.

**6.3** The resident will participate in preclinical didactic lecture and laboratory instruction as assigned by the faculty mentor.

## **7.0 BOARD CERTIFICATION**

**7.1** An important credential in clinical veterinary medicine is board certification in a specialty area. A major objective of the program is to prepare the resident for certification by the ABVP, avian practice specialty.

**7.2** In order to qualify for examination the resident should commit to the preparations necessary for board certification early in the first year of the residency. Refer to the published guidelines of the ABVP, avian practice specialty.

**7.3** Application to write the general examination should be made before March 1 of year three of the residency. Preparations and application for the certifying examination can be made during the succeeding years following completion of the residency.

## **8.0 CLINICAL PROGRAM**

The resident's program will follow the year IV professional teaching schedule which is comprised of 12 four week blocks.

## **8.1 Year I Resident's Program**

- 8.1.1** The resident will be assigned for 8-10 four week blocks on rotation with Bird, Zoo and Exotic Animal faculty members teaching in the VTH&C. Cases will be assigned to the resident from both the general and referral practices at the discretion of the faculty mentor. The non-clinical block will be scheduled and utilized for scholarly activity (research, seminar preparation, publication, scientific meetings, preparation for the ABVP examination) or personal activity.
- 8.1.2** The resident will function as a veterinary exotic animal clinician in the VTH with direct supervision and guidance from faculty in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of exotic animal cases. In addition, the resident will develop clinical expertise in the field of general internal medicine through case management and guidance from board-certified internists. The goal of this training will be to develop problem oriented skills in bird, zoo and exotic animal medicine and surgery.
- 8.1.3** The resident will participate in the instruction of Phase II students and interns. A minimum of one hour of didactic lecture will be presented to SVM Phase I students. Participation in SVM student laboratories will be assigned.
- 8.1.4** The resident will participate in the emergency duty rotation with other house officers.
- 8.1.5** The resident will participate in house officer rounds, ward rounds, journal club, radiology rounds, clinical pathology rounds, special topic conferences, seminars, and other scheduled conferences of the Small Animal Clinic.
- 8.1.6** The resident will present 1 seminar to faculty and house officers on a Bird, Zoo or Exotic topic of interest to the resident
- 8.1.7** During a non-clinical block, the resident may attend a major professional meeting with the advice and approval of their faculty mentor and the house officer committee. Expenses will be paid by the resident or through funds generated by research funding.
- 8.1.8** The resident is encouraged to attend and participate in continuing education meetings sponsored by the SVM or by local and regional veterinary organizations.
- 8.1.9** The resident will submit three papers to a refereed journal for publication. The article may be derived from case material, a literature review, or research project.
- 8.1.10** The resident should register with the ABVP.

- 8.1.11** The resident will prepare a research proposal, review it with their faculty mentor, and is encouraged to submit the proposal for funding consideration.
- 8.1.12** The resident is encouraged to attend zoo rounds at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo and Audubon Institute.
- 8.1.13** The resident may, with the approval of the faculty mentor, participate in clinically relevant graduate courses. The course work must not interfere with the clinical and instructional responsibilities of the resident.

## **8.2 Years II & III Resident's Program**

- 8.2.1** The resident will be assigned for 6 of 12 four week blocks on rotation with Bird, Zoo and Exotic Animal faculty members teaching in the VTH. Two 4 week blocks will be at the Audubon Institute and 2 four week blocks will be at the BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo. Two off-clinic blocks can be utilized for a special topic that may be applied to the completion of the MS program (with prior approval of appropriate faculty and house officer committee) and other scholarly activity including preparation of seminars, publications and preparation for sitting the ABVP avian specialty examination. Three credits, per year, of special topic course work may be scheduled for the off-clinic rotation. If the resident does not sit the ABVP avian specialty examination during the third year, then only one off clinic rotation will be scheduled.
- 8.2.2** See 8.1.2 through 8.1.8
- 8.2.3** The resident will submit three papers to a refereed journal for publication. Topic considerations should be discussed with the faculty mentor prior to manuscript preparation.
- 8.2.4** The resident should make application for the ABVP avian specialty examination prior to the March 1 application deadline.
- 8.2.5** The resident will begin or continue the research project if funding has been obtained.
- 8.2.6** See 8.1.12 through 8.1.13
- 8.2.7** The resident should become well familiarized with specific requirements to sit the ABVP avian specialty examination, as collection of clinical assets will be critical for completion of the application.

## **8.3 OUT ROTATION**

- 8.3.1** The resident will spend the equivalent of four blocks per year in Years 2 and 3 in outside clinical or research-oriented rotation(s). Outside

rotations at 1) Audubon Institute, New Orleans, LA, or 2) BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo, Baton Rouge, LA.

**8.3.2** Four 4 week blocks will be at the Audubon Institute and/or the BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo. Two off-clinic blocks can be utilized for a special topic that may be applied to the completion of the MS program (with prior approval of appropriate faculty and house officer committee) and other scholarly activity including preparation of seminars, publications and preparation for sitting the ABVP avian specialty examination. Three credits, per year, of special topic course work may be scheduled for the off-clinic rotation. If the resident does not sit the ABVP avian specialty examination during the third year, then only one off clinic rotation will be scheduled.

**8.3.3** The following are required upon completion of the outside rotation:

**8.3.3.1** Case log if rotation involved clinical responsibilities

**8.3.3.2** An evaluation of the resident provided by the primary mentor involved in the outside rotation

**8.3.3.3** An evaluation of the outside rotation provided by the resident.

**8.3.3.4** These materials must be submitted to the faculty mentor within one month of completing the outside rotation.

## **9.0 RESEARCH PROJECT**

## **10.0 GRADUATE PROGRAM**

**10.1** The graduate academic program is considered to be an important adjunct to the residency program. Enrollment will produce a more balanced educational experience, which will prepare the resident for an academic career as a member of the clinical faculty of a school or college of veterinary medicine. The graduate program is not required, but is encouraged.

**10.2** Requirements for admission to the LSU Graduate School are given in the current catalog under "Requirements for Advanced Degrees". The resident should apply for admission to the Graduate School at the time of acceptance to the residency.

**10.3** All MS graduate students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate courses, a final examination and a thesis. Course requirements include:

**10.3.1** A minimum of 12 hours of graduate work must be at the 7000 level or greater.

**10.3.2** A minimum of 10 hours of course credit must be from VCS courses



**10.3.3** A minimum of 6 hours of research/thesis credit must be completed (only 6 hours counted towards degree)

**10.3.4** A maximum of 4 hours of seminar (VCS 7001) may be applied toward the MS degree

**10.3.5** A maximum 8 hours of special topics (VCS 7003) may be applied toward the MS degree

**10.3.6** A minimum of 8 hours of non-VCS courses

**10.4** The resident shall choose a major advisor. The resident and major advisor are responsible for the selection of a graduate committee (usually 3 members) by January of the first year.

## **11.0 ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES**

## **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, 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 mentor will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss progress and block evaluations

**12.3** At any time in the resident's program, and at the latest in March of each year, the House Office 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 EMPLOYMENTS 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](http://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 Zoological Medicine by completing:
- 15.1.1** A standard residency application through [www.virmp.org](http://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.
  - 15.1.5** A curriculum vitae.
  - 15.1.6** A GRE score less than five years old if admission to graduate school is sought.

**16.0 APPENDICES**

**16.1 HOUSE OFFICER ROUNDS EVALUATION FORM**

House Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b><u>Evaluation</u></b> E=Excellent G=Good N=Needs Improvement	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
<b>Case Selection</b>		
Complexity of case		
Appropriate follow-up		
<b>Content</b>		
Format of presentation		
Discussion		
Conclusions		
Use of problem-oriented approach		
<b>Delivery</b>		
Clarity of speech		
Rate of delivery		
<b>Effectiveness of Visual Presentation</b>		
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	
<b>Presence: speaking ability</b>		
Clarity	0-10	
Rate of delivery	0-10	
Enthusiasm, expressiveness	0-10	
<b>Support Materials</b>		
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	
	<b>Total</b>	

### 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
<b>Professional Ability</b>					
Theoretical Knowledge					
Knowledge Application					
Skills					
Patient Care					
Thoroughness					
<b>Individual Characteristics</b>					
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					
<b>Hospital Service</b>					
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					
<b>Strengths:</b>					
<b>Areas for Improvement:</b>					