

Preparation for your visit

Essential things to bring:

Stethoscope, thermometer, watch/timer, notebook, clean and professional clothing (jeans, T-shirts, shorts etc. are not acceptable), sensible sturdy footwear, warm/outdoor clothing, university name badge.

Good skills and knowledge to polish up on:

- Preparing and scrubbing a sterile site
- Scrubbing up (H.E.C. uses a 'Sterilium' protocol) and open and closed gloving
- Gowning
- Routine diagnostic local anaesthesia
- Common drugs used in equine practice (sedation, NSAIDs, antibiotic protocols)
- Equine anaesthetic monitoring

We hope that you not only benefit from but also enjoy your time at Hambleton Equine Clinic. We look forward to including you as part of our friendly informal team. If you have any questions or to apply, contact Lucy Salmon via one of the contact details below.

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Externship & EMS Handbook

Hambleton Equine Clinic is a progressive practice that values the importance of EMS and enjoys sharing our knowledge with the next generation of veterinary surgeons.

You may be here as either a short-term EMS student or an extern. Any vet student in their clinical years may see practice on a short-term placement for 1-2 weeks, but externships are available to final year students for 3-4 week periods.

This handbook aims to outline what is involved in seeing practice at Hambleton Equine Clinic, as well as to prepare you for what to expect from us, and what we expect from you. As with any EMS placement anywhere, the more you put in, the more you will get out of it.



Other information

Accommodation and living

Externs are provided with accommodation in either the on-site flat, or a nearby house. In order to cover expenses, a small fee of £50 per week is required, excepting Christmas and New Year when there are no bills to pay as we are grateful for the help over the holiday period. For EMS students there may be places available in the practice flat/house, but externs must have priority. Otherwise, there may be rooms to rent inexpensively from practice nurses, or we can provide you with options for local B&Bs. The extern's house and flat is well-equipped for cooking etc. and there is a large CoOp supermarket less than 2 miles away in Stokesley along with every kind of takeaway! Both Great Ayton and Stokesley are within easy cycling distance, or for externs staying in the practice flat, there will generally be a member of staff willing to take you on a run to the supermarket, however we strongly advise that you have your own transport.

Liability

You are a guest of the clinic and therefore Hambleton Equine Clinic Ltd. does not accept any responsibility for personal injury or accidents or for loss or damage to your property. You should ensure that you have insurance for both yourself and your possessions.

Instructions

- You will work under the direct supervision of the hospital interns.
- Your first day will start at 08.00. Please report to reception upon arrival. Thereafter start times will be dependent upon inpatient treatments and will be instructed by the interns (usually 07.00). Please ensure that your contact details are written clearly on the board in the hospital pharmacy upon arrival. Finishing time will be when work is finished.
- Mornings will involve assisting the interns with treatments, followed by rounds. Please ensure you have a notepad and pen ready at rounds.
- The plan for the day will be outlined at the end of morning rounds. Ask the interns at this stage where you would be most useful during the day. Evening rounds are usually informal, but you should be aware of when any evening treatments are due and assist the interns in completing this.
- You will be assigned to a 1:2 out-of-hours rota, for which you will be attached to one of the interns. You should liaise with the duty intern at the end of the day to discuss what needs to be done overnight. Externs will be expected to assist with overnight work-ups, monitoring and treatments. The 1:2 out of hours rota also extends to weekends. Be prepared to be called in for emergencies.
- We try to offer a formal week of 'road practice' within the externship where you can experience our varied and complex on-the-road caseload. This may be dependent upon volume of inpatient duties, and therefore may not be possible, or may have to be 'spread' over the externship in a disjointed week.

General points:

- Within the hospital you will be spending much of the time working with our interns and nurses, but will also spend time working directly with our surgical specialist and experienced road-vets. You should remember that we are a private practice, not a teaching hospital, so you will primarily be observing rather than doing. However, we will aim to help you gain experience in practical techniques, particularly if you are with us as an extern.



- Be ready to ask questions, be asked questions and contribute to discussions about cases on the road and at the hospital. However, be tactful about when to ask these questions (i.e. not during discussions with the client or when clinicians are busy). We all aim to be approachable and encourage you to come and speak to us about anything you don't understand.
- Within our team we are very informal and we want you to feel involved. Please ensure that you make it clear if you are experiencing difficulties, do not understand what you have been asked to do, or generally feel out of your depth in any way at all. We have all been there in the past!

- It is important to appear professional, both in your personal appearance and manner, particularly around clients, who are often present during procedures. In these instances it is best to wait to be invited to do things and introduce yourself clearly and politely to the client when prompted.
- Most weeks are very busy, some weeks can be quiet. However quiet the clinic may be, there is always work to be involved in! If you have a quiet day, it is always favourably noted if you approach the nurses and offer help with other clinic duties.
- Most importantly you must ensure the safety of yourself, our staff and our patients! If you are uncomfortable about any health and safety-related issue (e.g. handling a horse you are not comfortable with or performing a procedure you don't feel safe doing), you must stay safe and tell one of our clinicians immediately.



EMS students

- You should arrive for 08.00 at the clinic each morning.
- First thing when you arrive you should introduce yourself to the reception staff and ask them which road vet to attach yourself to, or whether you should stay assisting the hospital interns.
- Finishing times will vary and often extend beyond the official 'home time'. Please make vets aware of any evening commitments before attaching yourself to them in the morning.

Externships

Externships run for a 3- or 4-week period in your penultimate and final study years. We expect you to have a keen interest in equine work and to be highly motivated and dedicated. As an extern you will be incorporated more formally into the hospital team and will be expected to participate more actively in work within the hospital. You may have to work harder, but you will be more practically involved and should take more away from your time with us. An externship is without doubt the best way to get a taster of life as an equine intern and further hospital roles.

An externship is different from normal EMS in that there is:

- Greater involvement in cases and responsibility for inpatient care
- Provision of accommodation
- Formal inclusion in out-of-hours duties

More opportunities to perform practical procedures such as nasogastric intubation, catheter-placement, blood-sampling, nerve blocks and scrubbing into surgery.