Internship in Poultry Medicine and Production

Leading poultry health internship in an innovative practice

Minster Poultry & Gamebird Vets consists of 6 strategically located practices in York, Sutton Bonington, Leominster, Hereford, Garstang and Wrexham which are served by 10 specialised poultry veterinarians.

We actively encourage post graduate degrees and engagement in poultry veterinary associations. Some of the qualifications that our veterinarians have include Certificates in Poultry Medicine and Production, Certificate in Welfare Ethics and Law, Certificate in Laboratory Animal Science and MBA and Masters in Meat Science and Technology. We are also proud of having trained the first European Diplomate in Poultry Medicine in 2013.

The group acts as veterinary consultants for a number of poultry operations in the UK including:
- Broilers
- Broiler breeders
- Commercial layers
- Turkeys
- Ducks
- Gamebirds

It also supports the international primary breeding and genetic program for a duck integrator in Europe and Middle East and acts as consultant for pharmaceutical companies and integrators worldwide.

At the end of the internship the successful applicant will have achieved a good working knowledge of the structure of the poultry industry, from breeding through to processing in all domestic poultry species. An understanding of the relationship between bird health and welfare & farm management, nutrition, biosecurity, cleaning and disinfection procedures and vaccination procedures will also be gained.

Areas covered in the programme:

- **Industry structure and poultry production including:**
  - Broiler breeders - Broilers - Commercial layers - Turkeys - Game birds - Ducks

- **Hands on experience including visits to:**
  - Poultry units - Feed mills - Primary breed stock suppliers - Hatcheries

- **Key poultry diseases:**
  - Epidemiology - Diagnosis - Treatment and control - Prevention

- **Diagnostic procedures:**
  - Clinical inspections - Necropsy examination - Coccidiosis screening - Pododermatitis/gait scoring

- **Sampling techniques**
  - Blood sampling - Tracheal and cloacal swabbing - Organ sampling - FTA paper impressions - Water sampling - Environmental sampling

- **Laboratory diagnostics**
  - Bacteriology - Serology - Histopathology - Microbiology - Molecular diagnostics

- **Data management**
  - Data input and reporting - Veterinary medicines prescriptions

The interns will gain an in depth knowledge of the most significant poultry diseases with an emphasis placed on epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation and lesions, diagnosis, control and treatment.

They will gain the necessary skills, understanding and confidence to perform the appropriate routine diagnostic procedures unsupervised, including sample collection to properly investigate the most common clinical cases.

During their time with the group, the applicant will achieve sufficient working knowledge of the available databases and software to interpret and input clinical data and develop the ability to generate the necessary reports and treatment regimes for the business they are working with.
Westpoint is a UK wide veterinary group dealing specifically with production animals. Our farm vets work hand in hand with livestock keepers to help them get the very best from their animals. That’s the highest levels of productivity and maximum profit, with a firm focus on optimising animal health, and encouraging efficient farming methods.

With farm vet practices right across the UK, our own research department and laboratories, we offer farmers of food-producing animals a competitively priced and comprehensive service for all their needs.

The internship offers the chance to work at the forefront of farm animal practice in a commercial environment, coupled with training and CPD to take your Day 1 skills and build on them over a full 12 month programme. The aim of the course is to produce farm animal veterinary surgeons with the knowledge, skills and ability to deal with individual animals, routine fertility visits and herd health disease problems in an evidence based way.

Areas covered in the programme:
- Fertility and scanning
- Herd health planning and farm finance
- Foot trimming and mobility
- Calf health and youngstock
- Mastitis and milk quality
- Sheep health and production
- Data management
- Beef health and production
- Infectious diseases
- Post mortem techniques and disease investigation
- Communication skills

A dedicated mentoring process has been created over the last few years for interns. Within their practice each intern will have a designated Senior Vet to act as their mentor, with whom they will meet regularly, allowing for specific training goals to be reached. Your personal development from scanning to surgery is fully supported by this process. In addition to your individual mentor within your practice, you will have access to expertise from across the group and be able to make use of our online learning platform, farmIQ.

Westpoint is committed to keeping at the forefront of farm animal practice; regular clinical club meetings bring in external speakers, many experts in their field, to teach on a variety of different topics through the year. This informal environment promotes discussion and debate. Journal clubs and farmer training events also offer the chance to learn on a daily basis.

As part of the programme, interns come together monthly for bespoke 2 day workshops where they will concentrate on the core areas of farm animal practice. The sessions are split between formal teaching and hands-on practical tutorials in the company of experienced vets and other experts.
For further information on the farm programme visit our website www.westpointfarmvets.co.uk or send an e-mail to info@westpointfarmvets.co.uk

Further information on the poultry programme is available from Minster Poultry & Gamebird Vets. Give us a call on 01904 620968 or e-mail sue.carr@originanimal.com