



Animal *Health* Trust

# Residency in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia

at the Animal Health Trust – programme description

## Introduction

The Animal Health Trust residency training programme in veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia is a standard programme of the European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (ECVAA). The training centre supervisor is Colette Jolliffe BVetMed CertVA DipECVAA MRCVS (Head of Unit). At least one other ECVAA diplomate helps to run the programme, along with several board-eligible anaesthesia clinicians. The anaesthesia team also includes anaesthesia interns and nurses, which, with the residents, makes a team of 11 or 12 people.

The residency programme is strengthened by the presence of diplomates in other disciplines: dermatology, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, surgery, equine medicine and orthopaedics; and clinicians in ophthalmology (advanced practitioner status). These departments provide a varied and challenging caseload for the anaesthesia team.

## Aims and objectives of the residency programme:

The programme aims to provide a practical and theoretical learning environment to allow candidates to qualify to sit the European Diploma in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia.

### Objectives:

- To provide a wide variety of clinical cases in terms of species, pathology and procedures for the residents to gain experience of the practical and theoretical aspects of veterinary anaesthesia.
- To hold regular tutorials and lecture presentations in all aspects of anaesthesia and relevant topics.
- To provide access to suitable textbooks, journals and electronic literature sources to allow residents to cover theoretical aspects of anaesthesia.
- To ensure that candidates undertake a one or two clinical research topics, in order to gain experience in study design, execution, oral presentation at scientific meetings and publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- To ensure that candidates publish relevant case reports or are involved in other research projects to allow further publication.

### Duration:

Three years, capacity for 2 standard residents to be trained concurrently.

### Programme design:

- Clinical training involving direct and indirect supervision from diplomates and board-eligible anaesthesia clinicians throughout the residency.
- Participation in the out of hours rota with supervision from a diplomate or anaesthesia clinician (degree of supervision dependent on experience and complexity of cases). Approximately 1 night per week and 1 weekend in 4.

- The small animal and equine services are integrated. The majority of cases are small animal anaesthesia (3600 per year), with about 60 equine anaesthesia cases per year. We are also responsible for almost all small animal and some equine sedations. There are occasional exotic cases.
- Externships in equine, farm animal and exotic animal anaesthesia are required due to lack of caseload at the AHT. Other externships may include small animal and equine intensive care, cardiology, human anaesthesia and laboratory animal anaesthesia. Previous externships include Cornell, Gent, Liverpool, London, Vienna and Zurich universities, Rossdale (equine hospital in Newmarket), occasional cases at Cambridge University and various exotic animal specialist practices. Most externships take place in off clinic time, although externships are tailored to the individual resident's requirements.
- Internal rotations with other AHT disciplines are available.
- Clinical anaesthesia and surgery rounds daily.
- Regular anaesthesia meetings:
  - Book chapter discussion and/or written questions weekly (Monday morning)
  - Case/topic discussion or housekeeping or resident/supervisor meeting weekly (Friday morning)
  - Journal club/topic discussion/interdisciplinary meeting once a fortnight (Thursday evening)
- Clinical meetings with the whole clinic once a week (Friday morning), including case presentations, lectures, morbidity and mortality rounds, physiology rounds. This includes presentation at these meetings.
- 45 days off clinic for private study, research and externships.
- 28 days holiday (including the 8 national holidays).
- Residents must be a member of the Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists (AVA) and attend one AVA meeting per year.
- Attendance of other relevant CPD is encouraged.

### **Year one key tasks:**

Join appropriate professional bodies e.g. Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists (AVA)

Enrol for European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (ECVAA)

Understanding of library facilities, electronic journals, literature searching

Start residency project and data collection (project design with epidemiology, ethics approval, pilot data collection and start full data collection)

Externship in equine anaesthesia (after 6 months)

Possible involvement in intern and nurse teaching

### **Year one clinical skills:**

Pre-anaesthetic patient assessment and identification of anaesthesia considerations

Logical decision-making regarding pre-anaesthetic medication, patient management and induction and maintenance of anaesthesia

Care of in patients' fluid analgesia +/- fluid therapy

Participation in intensive care

Understanding of anaesthesia equipment: set-up, safety checks and maintenance

Use and understanding of anaesthesia monitoring equipment

Placement of intravenous catheters in a variety of locations

Endotracheal intubation and proper use of a laryngoscope

Arterial catheterisation

Urethral catheterisation

Extradural injection  
Administration and monitoring of neuromuscular blockade  
Cardio-pulmonary-cerebral resuscitation  
Recognition of normal and abnormal radiographs, electrocardiograms  
Recognition of haematological and biochemical abnormalities  
Recognition and treatment of pain in animals  
Basic local nerve blocks including use of nerve locator  
Administration of drugs by infusion intra and post operatively, including total intravenous anaesthesia

**Year two key tasks:**

Complete data collection for residency project and start writing paper  
Publication and presentation of case report or other study  
Increased clinical responsibility  
Involvement in intern and nurse training  
Two externships

**Year two clinical skills:**

Understanding of the significance of clinical measurements and factors influencing their accuracy and interpretation  
Understanding and interpretation of electrocardiograms, radiographs, ultrasound examinations, magnetic resonance images and laboratory results  
Interpretation of neurological signs and appropriate treatment, in conjunction with a neurologist  
Placement of long stay and central line catheters  
Placement of extradural catheters  
Provision of physiological support following resuscitation

**Year three key tasks:**

Publication of first author research paper  
Completion of case reports and casebook for eligibility to sit ECVAA exams  
Study towards the ECVAA exams  
Presentation of oral abstract or poster at AVA or other conference  
Two externships  
Involvement in external CPD

**Year three clinical skills:**

To take full responsibility for clinical cases  
Management of patients with complex analgesia requirements  
Management of patients with complex fluid therapy and electrolyte requirements  
To supervise the long term ventilation of patients in intensive care  
Develop skills as a peri-operative clinician

**Diplomates undertook a residency at the AHT include:**

Federico Corletto  
Julia Deutsch  
Alex Dugdale  
Paolo Franci  
Nicolas Girard  
Colette Jolliffe  
Kieren Maddern  
Clara Rigotti