

Behavior Externship

E.Kathryn Meyer, VMD

Veterinary Behavior Clinic
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1) Schedule

Appointments are seen from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please confirm with Sara clinic days to identify vacation, holiday, or personal days Dr. Meyer may have scheduled. On days there are no cases, externs will spend their time doing projects so that the hourly requirements of a recognized externship are fulfilled.

Students will arrive at 8 am and review the files for the scheduled patients. During the appointment, the students will be strictly observers. Unless instructed otherwise, they are not to volunteer opinions or ask questions of the client. The pet is to be ignored to prevent potential aggressive incidents, unless otherwise indicated. Students are encouraged to take notes and write down questions that can be answered when the client is not present. Suggestions regarding case management can be made during breaks. Students should dress professionally, using the same guidelines used in their clinics at school.

2) Projects

Training/dog care book reviews. Externs will read *The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson and then their choice of a popular book about training/behavior problems (cats or dogs) currently available to pet owners. A review (2 to 3 pages) will be written comparing Jean Donaldson's approach and recommendations to those in other texts. Include a summary of how different behaviors are interpreted (motivation) and the recommended solutions for these problems. Spending time at local bookstores and reading the available texts is an inexpensive way to fulfill this project.

Literature review

Externs will choose a topic relevant to clinical behavior medicine and research the veterinary/applied ethology literature. The topic will be approved by Dr. Meyer prior to starting. Research papers should be brief (1 to 2 pages), including at least 5 original papers as references and textbooks as necessary. The National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library are within 30 minutes drive of the clinic and can be used as sources for literature review.