

Preceptor/Extern Boot camp

Value of Practice Rotations

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Value Of Practice Rotations:

- Formal portion of your DVM Curriculum
- Unique opportunities
- Different from tertiary referral institution in case load, pace, financial constraints, human and technological resources

Value of Practice Rotations Cont.

- Exposure to practitioners with training from other institutions
- Exposure to different practitioner styles of communication, information processing, time management and client education
- Opportunity to experiment with above and begin to integrate into your own style

Value of Practice Rotations Cont.

- Exposure to emotional realities of practice and opportunity to see different coping strategies.
- E.g. – euthanasia (You have never been the DVM before!)
 - client retention (you don't have clients for 18 years in a referral practice)
 - “new pet” experience
 - mentoring/staff relationship

Value of Practice Rotations Cont.

- Opportunity to see practice management as reality not a theory
- Exposure to real costs, realities of hiring, marketing strategies, ordering etc

Value of Practice Rotations Cont.

Medical Training:

- Case management start to finish (rarely the case in referral practice)
- Supervised decision making but the opportunity to develop the ability to make decisions!
- Learn to prioritize diagnostics and implement staggered work ups

Value of Practice Rotations Cont.

- Opportunity to hone practical skills:
 - How many urine sediments did you actually read yourself in vet school?
 - How did you adjust technique to get readable films?

Goal Setting in Practice Rotations

Goal Setting

- Necessary Step!
- Your responsibility not mine!
- You have some control over what you get out of a practice rotation!
- You are unlikely to learn what you don't set out to!
- Helps you ask the right questions

Practice Rotations: Goal Setting

Goal Setting Cont.

- What do you want to learn while at my practice?
- What is unique or significant about your rotation site?
- What general things are you likely to learn in a practice that are different from academia?

Goal Setting Cont.

Examples:

- Motor skills, surgical technique, poise, confidence building
- Time management strategies
- Interpersonal relations techniques
- Practice Management
- Ability to integrate multiple variables from diagnostics
- Client communication
- Delegating appropriately and effectively
- Client and Staff Bonding

Practice Rotations: Mentorship

- Find people ahead of you with characteristics you identify with or wish to develop and build relationships.
- Seek mentors with varying levels of experience and time in practice- They will offer different perspectives (e.g. 2 yrs post DVM vs. 20 yrs post DVM)
- Build a network of mentorship and support. One person cannot be universally available

Mentorship Cont.

- Become a mentor your self!!!!!!
- Engage your mentor in conversation, listen to stories (e.g. commercials during t.v. time at my house)

Mentorship Cont.

- Read, Think, Plan, then engage your mentor. Let her/him help shape and sharpen your process not feed you answers
- Use your mentor to help you find focus when you don't know where to start

Practice Rotations: Tips for Preparation

Preparation Tips:

- Read Ettinger's first 65 chapters like a novel. Don't panic it's only 240 pages!!

These sections help to focus you on algorithms for case work ups not correct answers on an exam.

Preparation Tips Cont.

- Read Fossums Surgery text on routine elective procedures and abdominal exploration. Keep this text handy for any procedures which are non elective

Preparation Tips Cont.

- Purchase and utilize the “Self-Assessment Colour Review of” series (Neurology, Emergency Medicine and Surgery editions are really good)
- Gives problem based questions with data for interpretation and asks relevant questions
- Helps shape process
- Gives practice in data integration

Practice Rotation: Improving Efficiency and Poise

Efficiency and Poise:

- Time Management:
 - 3 x 5 Rx Card
 - 3 x 5 Anesthesia Card
 - 3 x 5 10 Worst case fear card
 - Books in car trunk

Efficiency and Poise Cont.

- Stethoscope trick
- PE in back
- Look at your appt book the night before
- Vin
- Learn to effectively delegate

Efficiency and Poise Cont.

- Turn over exam rooms!
- Day case
- Life learn handouts and kittens
- Recheck appt. for problem #2
- Poop log

Efficiency and Poise Cont.

Know a little about the breed related illness and mention it in pediatric exams. (Look Smart!)

Efficiency and Poise Cont.

- Manage client expectations effectively!
 - estimate long then exceed expectations.
 - keep client in the loop if you cannot meet a deadline
 - honor client as the decision maker and valued part of treatment team
 - honor human needs

Practice Rotations: Bonding to Clients and Staff

Bonding:

- Buy donuts, ENTIRE staff
- Defer to staff
- Do not hover
- Do not overstate or pontificate but also do not grovel
- Introduce all staff (first and last name)
- No invisible staff

Bonding Cont.

- Love the pet
- Engage the children
- Tell Stories
- Mention your own pets
- It is our human story which bonds us not our medical acumen
- Shake hands
- Eye contact

Bonding Cont.

- Acknowledge owner fears
- Verbalize empathy both for pet and owner
- Acknowledge owner as decision maker
- Invite questions (poop log)
- Ask permission
- Hold court in the waiting room

Bonding Cont.

- Staff bonding improves delegation, efficiency, and poise
- Client bonding improves compliance, efficiency and job satisfaction

Practice Rotations: Picking a site

- Look at your list of goals and evaluate practices according to their ability to meet those goals
- Visit first if possible
- Talk to students who have rotated through the practice
- Talk to associates as well as owners. If possible talk to staff

Picking a Practice

- Clinic or specialist referrals
- Medical records
- Diagnostic images
- Appt. book
- Management structure
- Drug box