

Using the AVS Pre-EMS Form to optimise the EMS experience of Veterinary Students

For Vets:

In 2018 The Association of Veterinary Students surveyed current veterinary students and recent graduates to gain a better understanding of their experiences on extra-mural studies (EMS) placements. **This full report is available on the AVS website** as of 16th November 2018, and feeds into a complimentary session discussing optimising EMS for practices and students at the 2018 London Vet Show. Digital copies of the resources are available at www.avsukireland.co.uk/resources

One of the main recurring themes was how variable EMS placements can be and how involved students could be in skills and discussions. We also surveyed students to discover what the key skills/ areas of knowledge they wanted to improve on their EMS placements were.

93.7% of students (and 84% of recent graduates) said an introductory chat to set some objectives for the placement would be beneficial. At AVS we have produced the attached form for students to complete to help stimulate such discussions and aid student reflection. It was designed with the idea in mind that this form would be put up in the staff room or next to the ops list so that engaging the EMS student becomes something the whole team can do with it clearly laying out areas the EMS student would like to work on in a place that all of the team will see, and hopefully consider, when preparing for procedures or consults.

The student is also encouraged to self-score their confidence at some key skills that the survey identified as areas EMS students wanted to improve upon, these could act as a focus for objective setting and the students are encouraged by us and their university to reflect on their knowledge/skill improvements at the end of the placement and re-score themselves.

We hope that these resources prove useful and help you structure EMS placements, optimising the experience for both your future EMS students and your practice team as well.

Three versions of this form exist for Large Animal, Small Animal and Equine placements, to support students in all areas of their core 'seeing practice' EMS.

Any comments on the form would always be welcomed via email:

avspresident@gmail.com

CLINICAL EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES STUDENT INFO

Name:.....

Vet School:..... **Year:**.....

Aims for this Placement:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Some topics I have covered this year are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Potential Field(s) I want to work in:.....

Phone Number (for cases of interest OOH):.....

Finish Date: **Tea/Coffee:**.....

Self Assessment of Skills Pre-Placement (Yrs 3/4):

We encourage you to score your confidence in performing the below skills which were identified by veterinary students as key skills they wished to improve during their EMS placements. These scores should form a starting point for conversations with the practice & allow you to reflect and compare your confidence at the end of the placement

(1 = Not very confident at all/never performed, 5= Confident at performing competently/solo where appropriate)

Ability to safely handle and restrain a horse, including quick release knots

1 2 3 4 5

Perform a full clinical examination

1 2 3 4 5

Discuss appropriate year round worming plans & parasite species targeted

1 2 3 4 5

Take an IV blood sample & select appropriate collection tubes

1 2 3 4 5

Administer vaccinations & discuss vaccination protocols

1 2 3 4 5

Trotting up patients for lameness examination

1 2 3 4 5

Knowledge of equine dentition and dentistry

1 2 3 4 5

Accurate body condition scoring

1 2 3 4 5

Remove shoes from feet for examination

1 2 3 4 5

Self Assessment of Skills Pre-Placement (Yrs 4/5):

We encourage you to score your confidence in performing the skills below, which were identified by veterinary students as key areas they wished to improve their skill at/knowledge of on their EMS placements. These scores should form a starting point for conversations with the practice & allow you to reflect and compare your confidence at the end of the placement.

Please also consider the Yr 3 skills list.

Administer IV Sedation (inc. Select appropriate drugs & doses)

1 2 3 4 5

Place an IV catheter

1 2 3 4 5

Take an accurate history in an appropriate time

1 2 3 4 5

Select appropriate antimicrobial therapy for patients

1 2 3 4 5

Nasogastric Intubation

1 2 3 4 5

Assessment of the colic patient & initial treatment plan

1 2 3 4 5

Perform Equine Dental Treatment (rasping & simple extractions)

1 2 3 4 5

Detection of lameness at trot and lunge, including localisation to RH/LH/RF/LF

1 2 3 4 5

Rectal Examination and interpretation of findings

1 2 3 4 5

Superficial wound closure & pressure bandaging

1 2 3 4 5

Self Assessment of Skills Pre-Placement (Yr):

A blank grid is provided for you to list and score any other skills you wish to focus on throughout this EMS placement. These scores should form a starting point for conversations with the practice & allow you to reflect and compare your confidence at the end of the placement

(1 = Not very confident at all/never performed, 5= Confident at performing competently/solo where appropriate)

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5