

**College of Veterinary Medicine
and Biomedical Sciences**

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MEMORANDUM

To: PVM Students

From: Dr. Marty Fettman, Associate Dean, PVM

Re: Alternatives to the use of live animals for surgical training in the Junior Practicum

An updated plan has been developed to handle the genuine interest by some students to obtain alternative surgery training to that currently planned for the Junior Surgery Laboratory elective rotation in Junior Practicum. I first want to reiterate that there are many surgery training experiences in the 3rd and 4th years of the curriculum that do not require the use of non-client animals. The Small and Large Animal Surgery sections prepared the attached document that enumerates those opportunities. In the 3rd and 4th years, they include:

1. Core Surgical Principles Laboratory Junior Practicum rotation.
2. Two core Junior Practicum rotations in the Spay/Neuter Clinic.
3. Elective Junior Practicum rotations in Small Animal Surgical Anatomy and in Equine Surgical Anatomy. These rotations focus on practicing surgical approaches using cadavers.
4. Elective Junior Practicum rotations in Advanced Equine Procedures. These rotations include practicing surgical approaches using equine cadaver limbs.
5. Core, repeat, and elective Senior Practicum rotations in Small Animal Surgery, Food Animal Medicine and Surgery, Equine Surgery, and the Spay/Neuter Clinic.
6. Elective Senior Practicum externship rotations with local private practices or animal shelters that focus on surgical experiences, including Harrison Memorial Hospital in Denver and the Boulder Valley Humane Society.

Any Sophomore wishing to plan participation in the JSL rotation as described on the Junior Practicum Selection website should rank this elective as high as necessary to reflect your interest. Faculty from both the Small and Large Animal Surgery sections conducts the JSL rotation. Once assigned, you will have the following two options: To use an anesthetized pig or to use a freshly killed pig for your JSL experience. Any Sophomore wishing to participate in an alternative surgery training experience in Junior

Practicum should contact me before the annual Junior Practicum Rotation Selection process is closed to declare your intention and indicate your preference(s) for one or more of the following options. We will do our best to help you make one or more of those happen.

1. The JSL rotation as described on the Junior Practicum Selection website, using a freshly killed pig. Special scheduling will not be necessary for students requesting a freshly killed pig for their lab. You will participate in your assigned lab. If you wish to be isolated from the live pigs you will perform your procedures in the surgical preparation room.
2. An Independent Study rotation participating in an additional week of the Spay/Neuter Clinic to assist seniors in elective surgical procedures
3. An approved externship with a local private practice or animal shelter to assist practitioners or seniors in elective surgical procedures.

Because everyone must rank every elective, it is theoretically possible that someone who has ranked the JSL rotation as a very low priority will be assigned to that rotation nevertheless. If this occurs and you do not wish to participate in the JSL rotation under any circumstance, we will instead assign you to option 2 or 3 above if you have identified yourself to me as requested.

The Surgery faculty feel comfortable with all of the options identified above, so that you may choose the JSL rotation or not, and still acquire adequate experience in the 3rd and 4th years of the curriculum. If you desire an alternative surgical training experience there are absolutely no adverse effects of requesting or fulfilling that avenue for instruction. We would be happy to work with you to pursue these other opportunities for building on the core surgical training you will receive. Please identify your alternative intentions to me by the closing date for Junior Practicum rotation ranking each year. Thank you!

Small and Large Animal Surgical Training Program
Colorado State University
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences provides a comprehensive small and large animal surgical training program for professional veterinary students. The program is innovative in its design and thorough in student training. Students are transitioned from a relatively non-stressful surgical training environment conducive to learning basic technical skills, to a level of confidence capable of performing entry-level surgical procedures on recovery patients. This program is divided into core and elective surgical experiences.

Sophomore year:

Core experiences

Suture Manipulations on a Skin Model

Junior year:

Core experiences

Surgical Principles Laboratory (1 wk)

Spay/Neuter Laboratory I (1 wk)

Spay/Neuter Laboratory II (1 wk)

Operating Room (1 wk)

Elective opportunities

Junior Surgery Laboratory (1 wk)

Small Animal Surgical Anatomy Laboratory (1 wk)

Equine Surgical Anatomy Laboratory (1 wk)

Advanced Equine Procedures Laboratory (1 wk)

Food Animal Anesthesia and Surgery Laboratory (1 wk)

Independent Study in a Surgical Practice Rotation (1 wk)

Independent Study in a Spay/Neuter Clinic (1 wk)

Senior year:

Core experiences

Orthopedic Surgery Clinic Rotation (2wks)

Soft Tissue Surgery Clinic Rotation (3wks)

Oncology Clinic Rotation (3wks)

Spay/Neuter Clinic Rotation (2wks)

Integrated Livestock Management (Food Animal Medicine & Surgery) (4wks)

Equine Surgery (6wks)

Elective experiences

Spay/Neuter Clinic Rotation

Orthopedic Surgery Clinic Rotation

Soft Tissue Clinic Rotation

Oncology Clinic Rotation

Surgical Practice Preceptorship

Spay/Neuter Clinic Practice Rotation

Repeat Core Rotations

The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is sensitive to the educational needs of students with moral and ethical issues relative to the use of live animals in their surgical education. To this end a series of alternative experiences are offered.

Below is the alternative program for students who will utilize freshly euthanized animals in place of a live animal.

Sophomore year:

Core experiences

Suture Manipulations on a Skin Model

Junior year:

Core experiences

Surgical Principles Laboratory (1wk) (freshly euthanized rat)

Spay/Neuter Laboratory I (1wk)

Spay/Neuter Laboratory II (1wk)

Operating Room (1wk)

Elective opportunities

Junior Surgery Laboratory (1wk) (freshly euthanized pig)

Small Animal Surgical Anatomy Laboratory (1wk)

Equine Surgical Anatomy Laboratory (1wk)

Advanced Equine Procedures Laboratory (1wk)

Independent Study in a Surgical Practice Rotation (1wk)

Independent Study in a Spay/Neuter Clinic (1wk)

Senior year:

Core experiences

Orthopedic Surgery Clinic Rotation (2wks)

Soft Tissue Surgery Clinic Rotation (3wks)

Oncology Clinic Rotation (3wks)

Spay/Neuter Clinic Rotation (2wks)

Integrated Livestock Management (Food Animal Medicine & Surgery) (4wks)

Equine Surgery (6wks)

Elective experiences

Spay/Neuter Clinic Rotation

Orthopedic Surgery Clinic Rotation

Soft Tissue Clinic Rotation

Oncology Clinic Rotation

Surgical Practice Preceptorship

Spay/Neuter Clinic Practice Rotation

Repeat Core Rotations

Below is the alternative program for students who will not engage in live animal non-recovery surgery or will not utilize a freshly euthanized cadaver. Students electing this program are encouraged to take Small Animal Surgical Anatomy Laboratory, Equine Surgical Anatomy Laboratory, Advanced Equine Procedures Laboratory, Independent Study directed toward surgery experience, Spay/Neuter Practice Elective, and the Spay/Neuter Senior Clinic Rotation.

Sophomore year:

Core experiences

Suture Manipulations on a Skin Model

Junior year:

Core experiences

Surgical Principles Laboratory (1wk) (rat lab waived)

Spay/Neuter Laboratory I (1wk)

Spay/Neuter Laboratory II (1wk)

Operating Room (1wk)

Elective opportunities

Spay/Neuter Laboratory I (1wk) (assist senior student in elective surgery)

Small Animal Surgical Anatomy Laboratory (1wk)

Equine Surgical Anatomy Laboratory (1wk)

Advanced Equine Procedures Laboratory (1wk)

Independent Study in a Surgical Practice Rotation (1wk)

Independent Study in a Spay/Neuter Clinic (1wk)

Senior year:

Core experiences

Orthopedic Surgery Clinic Rotation (2wks)

Soft Tissue Surgery Clinic Rotation (3wks)

Oncology Clinic Rotation (3wks)

Spay/Neuter Clinic Rotation (2wks)

Integrated Livestock Management (Food Animal Medicine & Surgery) (4wks)

Equine Surgery (6wks)

Elective experiences

Spay/Neuter Clinic Rotation

Orthopedic Surgery Clinic Rotation

Soft Tissue Clinic Rotation

Oncology Clinic Rotation

Surgical Practice Preceptorship

Spay/Neuter Clinic Practice Rotation

Repeat Core Rotations

Each of the above listed surgical programs is designed to give students the depth and breadth of surgical training necessary to perform entry-level surgical procedures the day of graduation.