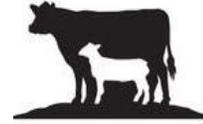




# PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES



## Goals of the program:

To ensure adequate veterinary service is available in the future to serve Saskatchewan's expanding livestock production sector by exposing third year Saskatchewan quota students to rural veterinary practices in Saskatchewan serving a high percentage of livestock clients.

## Planned outcomes:

By providing third year students a more intensive large or mixed animal practice experience and by demonstrating a range of professional and lifestyle options to be found in the agri-food sector in rural Saskatchewan, our hope is the preceptorship program will encourage students to seriously consider rural food animal or mixed practice as an attractive career option.

Veterinarians from different types of practice may do things, see things and think about things in different ways. Individual livestock producers and other clients are equally as diverse in their ways of handling livestock and managing their production units. Exposing students to food animal practice from many points of view is one of the strengths of the preceptorship program.

## Terms and Conditions:

1. Practices will be responsible for providing supervision, guidance and support to the student for fourteen (14) weeks during the period commencing early in May of the program year.
2. Financial support provided by the practice must be either cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions that equals at least \$3,500 over and above the \$6,500 provided by the SVMA and the Preceptorship Program Fund for the 14 week period. Practices may provide financial support above the \$3,500 minimum.
3. In-kind contributions such as suitable living accommodations, board and room or travel support, to a maximum of \$1,500 for the 14 week period, are allowed. Other in kind contributions made by the practice should be discussed with the SVMA prior to the start of the summer program.
4. The SVMA will provide each practice with three payments over the summer: of \$2,000 at the end of May, \$2000 at the end of June and \$2500 at the end of July.
5. While the 14 week mentorship period normally extends into August, **there is no wage support paid beyond the end of July.** Students and practices need to know they will receive wage support payments only three (3) times over the 14-week period.
6. Practices are to use the funds provided by the SVMA as part of the wages paid to the student. Standard deductions shall be made from the student's gross wages: the workers compensation program is mandatory. Disability and other insurance is the responsibility of the student.
7. Preceptorship students are expected to be agents of their own learning. As part of this, they are required to submit three reports to the SVMA regarding their preceptorship activities over the summer. Reports can be emailed to [sgauthier@svma.sk.ca](mailto:sgauthier@svma.sk.ca) or faxed to 306.975.0623. The first report is due by the end of May. The second report is due by the end of June. The first two reports must be received by the SVMA office for the final cheque to be issued. A final report that includes completion of a questionnaire provided by the SVMA office is to be submitted by the end of August.

## The Supervisor's role:

1. Expose the 3<sup>rd</sup> year student to large or mixed animal practice over the 14 weeks they will be involved in the preceptorship program.
2. Supervise the student directly as they undertake hands on veterinary services and procedures. This is an active role on the part of the supervisor, who must be ready to observe closely, and provide guidance, advice and support to the student in the practice of veterinary medicine.
3. Allow the student to see every facet of the practice:
  - a. the day-to-day activities of the clinic, from caring for animals to working with technologists and other staff.
  - b. the demographics and geography of the practice
    - client and species statistics
    - staffing
    - work loads
    - seasonal caseloads
    - practice history
    - issues unique to the specific practice
  - c. commercial aspects of a practice
    - fees
    - billing practices
    - sales practices and markups
    - how the practice interacts with pharmaceutical companies and representatives
    - drug inventories
    - dispensing protocols
    - staff salaries
4. Supervisors should determine the “comfort level” the student has in dealing with producers and their animals within the first few days of employment. Some students have a great deal of experience in this area; others may have had little or no exposure to either. Supervisors should strive to instill confidence in the student regarding their increase in knowledge and understanding related to food animal production practices and the business of raising livestock as the summer progresses. Work from the perspective that this student could potentially become a new associate who would then be dealing with your clients after joining the practice.
6. Discuss the client base of the practice, from hobby farms to intensive livestock production operations, the various skill and knowledge levels regarding animal husbandry, the clients’ acceptance and use of modern or innovative production practices. New associates make better impressions on clients if they can demonstrate a reasonable level of familiarity with the principles and the language associated with the various livestock sectors.
7. Discuss your practice’s herd health and companion animal health protocols:
  - vaccination programs
  - spring processing of cows and calves
  - fall processing of feeders
8. Review the practice fee schedule and discuss how and when these are set. Also discuss the use of cost estimates for work done with both livestock and companion animals.
9. Have the student perform an audit on the medical records kept by the practice with reference to the SVMA Practice Standards.
10. Discuss biosecurity both on farm and in the clinic.
11. Discuss emergency preparedness and response plans using civic and animal disease situations.
12. Discuss animal welfare issues including dealing with suspected cases of animal abuse.