

Iowa Veterinary Specialties Preceptorship Program

4th-Year DVM Credit Rotation | 48 Hours/Week | 8 Total Shifts (12 Hrs.)

IVS Preceptorship Program Overview

The IVS Preceptorship is an immersive, hands-on capstone experience designed to synthesize all clinical, cognitive, and professional skills developed throughout the DVM curriculum. Students function **as a doctor under supervision**, managing cases from intake to discharge while collaborating with technicians, supervising DVMs, clients, and referring veterinarians.

Throughout the rotation, students engage in real-time medical decision-making—developing problem lists, differential diagnoses, diagnostic plans, and treatment strategies. They interpret diagnostics, communicate directly with clients, participate in anesthesia and sedation management, and practice the professional skills essential to success in a high-acuity emergency setting.

The emphasis is on **critical thinking, clinical reasoning, communication, and professionalism**. Students grow through an Observe → Do (Supervised) → Do (Independent) progression and are expected to take initiative, be proactive, and pursue their own learning goals. Reflection and self-evaluation at the end of Weeks 1 and 2 help integrate feedback and promote continued professional development.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the IVS Preceptorship, students will be able to:

1. **Perform comprehensive physical examinations** and accurately interpret findings.
2. **Develop prioritized problem lists** based on history, presenting complaint, and clinical examination.
3. **Formulate appropriate differential diagnoses** and diagnostic plans for review with the supervising DVM.
4. **Construct treatment plans** including medication selection, correct dosing, CRI calculations, and fluid therapy strategies.
5. **Interpret diagnostic data** such as radiographs, CBC, chemistry panels, urinalysis, EKGs, and rhythm strips.
6. **Assist with and interpret AFAST and TFAST imaging** to support case assessment.
7. **Demonstrate clinical reasoning and case synthesis** by connecting diagnostic results to medical decision-making.

8. **Manage anesthesia and sedation plans**, assessing hydration, pain levels, and anesthesia depth, and adjusting appropriately.
9. **Communicate effectively with clients**, including reviewing findings, discussing care plans, explaining costs, and addressing financial or emotional concerns with empathy.
10. **Demonstrate professionalism and teamwork** when working with DVMs, technicians, CSRs, and clients in a fast-paced ER environment.
11. **Document cases accurately and thoroughly** within the EMR system (ezyVet/Vet Radar).
12. **Reflect on growth and performance** through structured self-evaluations at the end of Weeks 1 and 2.

Program Structure

Week	Pairing / Focus	Primary Outcomes
Week 1	Paired with two different DVMs	Develop diagnostic reasoning, communication, problem lists, and critical thinking.
Week 2	Paired with two new DVMs	Focus on client communication, prescription and discharge planning, documentation, and professional confidence.

Student Name: _____

Dates onsite: _____

It's the student's responsibility to fill out and Complete.

Hospital Orientation	Mentorship Initials	Completed Date
Tour of the hospital		
HR – Paperwork / Access to systems		

A. Patient Assessment & Case Management

Skill / Task	Observe	Do (Supervised)	Do (Independent)	Mentor Initials
Conduct complete physical examination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create accurate problem list	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Develop differential diagnosis list	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Present case verbally to DVM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Develop diagnostic and treatment plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calculate and dose medications/fluids appropriately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Administer treatments correctly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

B. Diagnostics

Skill / Task	Observe	Do (Supervised)	Do (Independent)	Mentor Initials
Perform venipuncture and collect samples	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Interpret CBC and Chemistry results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluate radiographs and identify abnormalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assist with and interpret AFAST imaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assist with and interpret TFAST imaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Perform and interpret ECG / Rhythm diagnostics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Integrate diagnostic results into treatment plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

C. Anesthesia, Sedation & Pain Management

Skill / Task	Observe	Do (Supervised)	Do (Independent)	Mentor Initials
Balance sedation and treatment plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Manage anesthesia during procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recognize and assess pain and anesthesia depth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assess hydration status and fluid plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

D. Communication & Professionalism

Skill / Task	Observe	Do (Supervised)	Do (Independent)	Mentor Initials
Present cases clearly to colleagues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Communicate diagnostic and treatment plans to owners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Discuss cost estimates and invoices professionally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Demonstrate empathy and build client rapport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Support owners through grief and difficult decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

E. Documentation & Rounds

Skill / Task	Observe	Do (Supervised)	Do (Independent)	Mentor Initials
Enter SOAP notes accurately in ezyVet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Update treatment sheets and diagnostics in Vet Radar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lead or contribute to DVM rounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Prepare and deliver case presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Week 1 Self-Evaluation

Reflect on your first week at IVS. Describe a case that challenged your reasoning and decision-making.

How have you developed your communication and clinical confidence?

Week 1 Review with Hospital Administration

Schedule a time with:

Sam Patterson -Operations Director or Dr. April Blong- Medical Director

Signatures

Student Name:		Date:
Administration Name:		Date:
Administration Comments:		

Week 2 Self-Evaluation

Reflect on your growth during the preceptorship. How have your skills improved in patient management and client communication?

What areas do you plan to continue improving as you transition into your DVM role?

Signatures

Student Name:		Date:	
Supervising DVM:		Date:	
Supervising DVM:		Date:	
Supervising DVM:		Date:	
Supervising DVM:		Date:	
Mentor Comments:			

Final check lists turned into: Preceptor Coordinator

Mentorship@ivsdsm.com

