

This report should be submitted within 2 weeks after you return to Japan. Please do not change the formatting

(Abroad • Domestic) Internship report form (Student)

2020/04/22 (Year/Month/Day)

Name	Ekkapol AKARAPHUTIPORN
Laboratory	Laboratory of Surgery, Graduate school of Veterinary Medicine
Year (Grade)	D4
Internship institution	Shadai Horse Clinic, Tomakomai, Hokkaido, Japan
Internship period	Internship period: 06/04/2020 - 17/04/2020 (Departure Date from Sapporo: 06/04/2020, Arrival Date in Sapporo: 17/04/2020)
Purpose	To gain knowledge, accumulate experience, and refine my clinical skills in veterinary clinical practice, particularly in equine medicine and surgery

- The reason why you chose this institute

Shadai horse clinic is a preeminent equine hospital in Japan, which provide dedicated services for horses requiring specialized medical and surgical care. Due to a large number of horses under the Shadai corporation, they perform several operations and encounter various kinds of clinical cases. Internship in this institute will be an excellent opportunity for me to learn, experience, and develop my clinical skills.

- Result of the activity (about 800 words, provide photos, tables and figures that clearly show the activities during the period)

During the internship period from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at Shadai horse clinic of Shadai corporation in Tomakomai, Japan, I have been assigned to follow veterinarians in the clinic. My work schedule is similar to other veterinarians, however, without a day off. Shadai horse clinic operates from 7.00 to 18.30 on the weekday, with an emergency and critical care service that offers 24-hour a day and 7-day a week. My daily work schedule for the whole week on both weekdays and weekends was presented in tables 1 and 2, respectively. For daily routine, an inpatient care was performed twice a day in the early morning and late afternoon. The medical management for a hospitalized horse mostly consisted of physical examination, drug administration and wound dressing. Depend on the horse condition and veterinarian suggestion, radiographic imaging, sample collection and additional treatments could be performed. Nasogastric intubation to feed an extra amount of water for the horse with a sign of mild colic is one of the examples for an additional treatment we had performed during the inpatient care period. After inpatient care in the morning, we move around in the area of Shadai corporation and visit each farm for patient follow-up. Similar to inpatient care, we operate on-farm service with a physical examination, drug administration, wound dressing, sample collection, radiographic imaging and ultrasonographic imaging. Depend on our work schedule, the outpatient care and surgical operation were performed from 9.30 to 17.00. However, most of the time was used for surgery preparation and surgical operation. Each horse was reexamined before every surgery to

confirm the health condition and abnormality that it represented. During the reexamination of lameness problem, I have taken part in several cases for radiographic imaging analysis, lameness examination and gait analysis with a suggestion from veterinarians in the clinic. For the surgical operation, I was participated mainly as an observer and also played a role as a technical staff to prepare surgical area and equipment used in operation. In this part, I have observed various kinds of surgical procedures including arthroscopy, laparotomy, castration, cesarean section, thoracentesis, joint lavage, bone fixation and implant removal. The images of these surgical operations I had observed were shown in figure 1. In addition, I have participated as a surgical assistant in the arthroscopic surgery to remove chip fracture within the joint. I was given a short introduction and practice to use an arthroscope to observe joint conditions under the supervision of Dr. Fumiki Kato, the hospital director. Furthermore, during the standby period for an emergency, I have participated in every emergency case that comes at Shadai horse clinic regardless of the date and time. Due to a large number of horses in Shadai corporation, there are emergency cases that need immediate treatment almost every day such as dystocia and colic. Some of the surgical operation on these emergency conditions was started at midnight and finished in the morning. Although several medical procedures could be performed at this hospital, they still have the collaboration with Rakuno Gakuen University and Obihiro University for some special medical equipment. Fortunately, I have an opportunity to observe the collaborative medical service with both universities. We went to Rakuno Gakuen University on Wednesday of 15<sup>th</sup> April to perform ocular surgery on the horse that was suspected for fungal eye infection. On this horse, superficial keratectomy and conjunctival autograft were performed by the associate professor. Seiya Maehara, with assistance from the veterinarian of the Shadai horse clinic. On Thursday of 16<sup>th</sup> April, we went to Obihiro University to perform computerized tomography (CT) scan with the professor. Masaaki Tagami on the horse diagnosed with a carpal bone fracture. The result from a CT scan is needed to confirm and determine the treatment of choice on this horse. The images of these surgical operations performed at Rakuno Gakuen University and Obihiro University were shown in Figures 2 and 3, respectively.

Table 1.

Work schedule: Weekday (Monday-Friday)	
Duration	Activity
07.00-08.00	Inpatient care
08.00-09.30	Follow-up farm visit
09.30-12.00	Outpatient care/Surgical operation
12.00-13.00	-Lunch-
13.00-17.00	Outpatient care/Surgical operation
17.00-18.30	Inpatient care
18.30-19.30	-Dinner-
19.30-07.00	Rest/Emergency standby

Table 2.

Work schedule: Weekend (Saturday-Sunday)	
Duration	Activity
07.00-08.00	Inpatient care
08.00-09.30	Follow-up farm visit
09.30-12.00	Emergency standby
12.00-13.00	-Lunch-
13.00-17.00	Emergency standby
17.00-18.00	Inpatient care
18.00-19.00	-Dinner-
19.00-07.00	Rest/Emergency standby

Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



- What do you think the positive impact of the activity will have on your further career path?

My prospective career path is to become a university lecturer and veterinary practitioner who specializes in orthopedic surgery. After graduation, I will apply for the position of lecturer and work in the laboratory of veterinary surgery at the university of my home country. Having experience in the clinical practice related to equine medicine and surgery will provide me a good opportunity for my future career path. During this internship, I had observed numerous clinical cases and learn about horse examination, sample collection, clinical diagnosis and therapeutic approach, including both medical management and surgery. I believe that by observing a variety of clinical cases and understanding the working process in the hospital will help me realized on which kind of skill or ability I need to learn and improve before my graduation.

- Advice for your junior fellows

The internship should be applied as soon as possible because there are several factors that we could not control such as delay in the documentation process or even the travel restriction. For an international student with poor Japanese communication, the domestic internship is quite difficult due to the communication problem.

Approval of supervisor	Institution • Official title • Name
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- ※1 Send the electronic file to the Leading School section, International Affairs Office
- ※2 Attach a copy certificate of the content of internship activity that is prepared by the counterpart at the internship institution (any form with a signature of the counterpart).
- ※3 The Steering Committee of the Leading Program will first confirm the content of this report and report will be forwarded to the Educational Affairs Committee for credits evaluation.

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