



# Guidelines for Visiting Future Veterinarians

Welcome to Equine Medical Associates. We are a practice based out of Lake Forest, CA, serving all of Orange County. Our practice is exclusively equine, treating primarily English sport horses (mostly hunter/jumper), though our patients include horses from other disciplines as well as miniature horses, retirees, and backyard companions. Our caseload consists mainly of routine care (vaccines/deworming), dentistry, lameness, medicine (chronic weight loss, skin/eye conditions), and emergencies (colic, lacerations, etc.). We do very little surgery, reproduction, or neonates/foal work.

## Requirements

For those interested in visiting our practice, we require a minimum of 2 years of college coursework in a pre-veterinary program, with the intent of applying to veterinary school in the future. Previous horse experience is a must. We also require a resume and a brief letter indicating what you hope to get out of your visit with us as well as your future veterinary goals- this will help us tailor your visit to meet your specific interests. We limit each visiting student to 12 visits total- we feel that this is a good amount of time for us to get to know you and for you to get to know our practice. These visits can be arranged to suit your schedule, but must be completed within a 6-month period.

## Rules and Guidelines

Here are a few rules and guidelines to make your visit go smoothly:

- **Attire:** Please dress professionally and come prepared for working with horses (i.e. long pants, closed-toed shoes, collared shirt).
- **Food:** We will do our best to stop for lunch, but since that is not always possible, please bring a lunch and plenty of water to drink.
- **Confidentiality:** This is HUGE. Understand that all information you learn about our practice, our clients, and our patients is completely confidential and is not to be discussed or otherwise communicated to anyone other than the EMA doctors.
- **Communication with Clients:** This should be limited to conversations about the weather, news, non-controversial topics, etc. Visitors should not discuss with clients anything about their horse, their horse's condition/problem, or other horses in the same or other barns. Even discussions about horses/cases from your personal experience need to be avoided. This is necessary to prevent miscommunication and/or mis-information. If a client asks you a question, the appropriate response is to defer to the doctor you are with (i.e. "I'm not sure about that, let me ask Dr.Reese", or "That would be a great question for Dr.Sapp, she has a lot more experience with these types of cases than I do"). Visiting students must also avoid talking about other trainers/riders/horses you may both know, or anything resembling gossip. Some of our clients get very nervous about visiting students and are very concerned about confidentiality, while other clients may try to gain information about their own or other horses from visiting students. The best way to avoid trouble is by keeping conversation with clients to a minimum and referring all questions to the docs.
- **Rounds:** Please save your questions/thoughts on cases for when the client is not present. Since we spend a good amount of time driving in the truck, this is a great time for case discussion. We encourage questions and want you to get as much as possible out of your time with us.

If you have any questions about our practice or our policies, please ask. Welcome to EMA!

I have read these rules and agree to comply.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date