



October 29, 2019

Dear Dr. Strubel,

We are pleased to let you know that A Well Adjusted Pet has been accepted as an official CRI internship site. Thank you for agreeing to give our students the chance to work directly with a rehabilitation professional and get the **hands-on** experience that is so essential to their training.

Your practice will now be posted to the list of approved internship sites on our website. We do work hard to keep information about mentors and practices accurate. You will be asked to provide an update periodically, but if there are changes or additions in the meantime please let us know. This would include anything that could impact an intern's experience—for examples, a change in mentor, caseload or practice hours, or even a new piece of rehabilitation equipment.

Students are given access to the list of internship sites after they have completed their Introduction to Canine Rehabilitation course (generally the first course in the program). It is then their responsibility to select a mentor, and to speak directly with that person to discuss their specific interests and make necessary arrangements. The internship itself should not begin until after the student has successfully completed all 3 core courses—each student is instructed to provide their mentor with a form indicating that s/he has completed the courses.

During the internship, our expectation is that interns will be spending the majority of their internship time with their mentor(s) performing **hands on practice** of manual assessment and treatment techniques, land-based therapeutic exercise techniques, and developing the plan of care, including HEP. Also, as we recognize that it is difficult to interrupt patient treatments to provide instruction, it is strongly suggested that separate time is scheduled during the internship for one-on-one meetings between intern and mentor(s) to ensure that the intern's goals are met and any questions answered.

Skill Building:

Students should be using their internship experience to build skills through hands-on practice in the following areas:

CCRT Candidates (veterinarians and physical therapists)

- Case assessment
- Knowledge of anatomy
- Gait analysis
- Palpation
- PROM/Goniometry
- Use of Gulick
- Special tests – shoulder, stifle, hip, neurological, etc.
- Joint mobilization
- Treatment modalities
- Therapeutic exercise
- Development of treatment goals, treatment plans, and HEP's

CCRA/CCRVN Candidates (veterinary assistants)

- Case review
- Knowledge of anatomy
- Gait analysis
- Palpation
- PROM/Goniometry
- Use of Gulick
- Treatment modalities
- Therapeutic exercise
- Safe handling of animals
- Client education

**CRI requests that mentors provide interns with as much opportunity as possible to experience what the mentor is noting through direct, appropriately supervised palpation of patients. If your practice limits the ability for interns to practice skills directly on active patients, please make every effort to provide interns with other opportunities such as with staff-owned dogs.

Forms:

The following forms are used to facilitate the internship process, and to evaluate the intern. You will find them attached to the corresponding email, with descriptions there as well.

Intern Information Form. This form can be used by mentors to provide prospective interns with information about their practice as well as any guidelines so that students arrive well prepared for the experience. We have included a sample Intern Information Form from our Colorado State University program as an example.

PT Evaluation/Plan of Care. Can be used or adapted by the mentor for use during the internship, if desired—use of this form is not required.

Internship Goals (CCRT and/or CCRA/CCRVN versions). Students set goals for their internships and indicate particular areas of interest. This form is sent to the mentor and to the CRI Internship Coordinator at least one week before the start of the internship.

Intern Self-Assessment (CCRT and/or CCRA/CCRVN versions). Students evaluate their internship experience including their performance and what they have learned. The form is due within 30 days after the student completes the internship. It is graded by either Krista Niebaum or Holly Logan (CRI Assistant Internship Coordinator), and shared with the mentor once the student has passed.

Intern Evaluation (CCRT and/or CCRA/CCRVN versions). The mentor completes and returns the evaluation to Krista Niebaum within 30 days after the student has completed the internship. It is also shared with the student. Interns are encouraged to be familiar with the items on this form prior to initiating the internship so they are aware of the skills that their mentors will be evaluating.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. In the meantime, I encourage you to go to www.caninerehabinstitute.com/Internship.html to make sure that the information posted about your practice and mentor is correct. The user name and password for CCRT students are `ccrintern/lassie123`; for CCRA students, `ccraintern/verdell789`.

Regards,

Krista Niebaum, MPT, CCRT
CRI Internship Coordinator
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