

# **AKC Companion Animal Residency in Theriogenology at Auburn University**

## **Program Description**

The residency will be a 3-year training program in comparative theriogenology and will have small animal theriogenology as the major focus area. The resident will be exposed to all aspects of theriogenology to include bovine, equine, small ruminants and exotics. The resident will manage cases through the Small Animal Theriogenology Service in the Bailey Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Auburn University and will be involved in all aspects of patient care such as breeding management (including surgical and transcervical insemination), semen cryopreservation, and management of high risk pregnancies and infertility evaluation of both males and females.

Additionally, the Canine Performance Sciences (CPS) Program maintains an active canine breeding program at Auburn University with a focus on purpose-bred detection dogs. The theriogenology service is dedicated to CPS in the complete reproductive management of these valuable dogs, and this would comprise approximately 30-40% of the resident's time and effort.

The Canine Performance Sciences (CPS) Program currently maintains seven Labrador Retriever bitches for their on-site breeding program, resulting in approximately 14 litters per year. The CPS mission statement is as follows: Through research, teaching and outreach, the Auburn University Canine Performance Sciences Program continually improves animal detection science and technology to serve and defend the nation and society. This breeding program is a valuable asset to the university, with reproductive management of these animals constituting a critical part of the resident's training program (30-40% effort). These Labrador Retrievers provide a valuable resource for training residents in breeding management, whelping management, and neonatal and postpartum health assessment.

The resident will complete a master's degree during the 3-year program. There are currently 10 diplomates of the American College of Theriogenologists at Auburn University and three other theriogenology residents (two food animal and one equine emphasis) which provides a unique and supportive atmosphere for case discussion, weekly journal club, graduate classes and board study. The environment at Auburn University is conducive to preparing residents to be successful in obtaining diplomate status and being clinically proficient in theriogenology as well as obtaining training in experimental design and research analysis.

If desired, the resident will be allowed time away from the university to work with a board-certified theriogenologist at a small animal specialty practice. Additionally, we have a good working relationship with two zoos nearby and the resident will be allowed flexibility to visit those facilities as reproductive cases may arise.

## **Objectives of the Residency Program**

- A. To provide the resident with a comprehensive experience in comparative theriogenology with a small animal focus in an academic environment.
- B. To provide the resident with considerable exposure to a diverse theriogenology caseload while being mentored by multiple board certified clinicians.
- C. To prepare the resident for the successful completion of all steps of the certification process leading to diplomate status in the American College of Theriogenologists.
- D. To train theriogenologists interested in pursuing a career in academia or a high quality specialty practice by exposing them to a balance of teaching, clinical service and research.

## **Expectations**

The resident is expected to have primary responsibility in management of cases presented to the Small Animal Theriogenology service. Primary responsibility on other clinical services (equine theriogenology, food animal theriogenology, dairy hospital and food animal hospital) will also be expected, but to a much lesser extent. Additionally, our Theriogenology service consults on many reproductive cases managed by other primary services within both the small and large animal hospitals.

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## **Additional Residency Requirements**

- Required writing and scholarly pursuit during off clinic time
  - Case report or other publication (component of ACT requirements)
  - Prepare and submit a research grant to the AU Research and Graduate Studies Committee and also to an outside funding source (if applicable).
- Prospective, original research project (MS, thesis requirement)
- The resident will be expected to be an active and vital member of the teaching team.
  - Assist with and lead the discussion in several teaching laboratories for veterinary students.
  - Lead discussions, direct learning, and assess the performance of the senior veterinary students during their clinical rotations.
- The resident will be required to present 1-2 educational presentations per year for dog enthusiasts (local kennel clubs, etc).

## **Qualifications**

Applicants must have a DVM (or equivalent) degree, a minimum of one year of clinical experience and must meet the academic criteria needed for acceptance into the Auburn University Graduate School. Eligibility for veterinary licensure in the State of Alabama is required. The candidate must be able to meet eligibility requirements to work in the United States at the time of the appointment and continue working legally for the proposed term of employment. Membership in the AVMA is required to begin the residency to obtain professional liability insurance paid by the department. Competitive candidates should also have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, a willingness to work on animals of all species and a passion for purpose-bred dogs.

## **Timeline**

A CV, letter of intent, and three letters of reference should be submitted as soon as possible for consideration, no later than Friday, April 27, 2018. The position will begin July 15, 2018, with anticipated completion in July 2021.

Questions and application materials should be directed to Dr. Robyn Wilborn ([wilborn@auburn.edu](mailto:wilborn@auburn.edu)).

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