



SNPLA Veterinary Training Program Syllabus

The SNPLA Veterinarian Training Program (VTP) syllabus is a general program guide for surgeon trainees. Trainees are encouraged to participate in an initial round of directly supervised training and should keep in mind the following goal levels and opportunities with regards to training progress.

Goals/Expectations

Level 1: Beginner training stage with an initial four days of surgery under direct supervision; can be repeated based on trainee development and program availability.

Level 2: Side-by-side training days with supervision and assistance provided as needed; can be repeated as much as desired depending on quality of performance, competence and program availability.

Level 3: Solo surgery days with low-mid volume number of patients scheduled; these days would have a patient breakdown specific to the skills and competencies of the surgeon

*potential for paid surgery shifts with SNPLA

Level 4: HQHVSN Surgeon performing a full/regular shift of surgery (~ 35 surgeries completed in ~ 5 hours of operating time); patient selection and procedure difficulty may vary based on surgeon comfort and level of experience with an expectation that surgeons will continue to challenge themselves, gain experience and meet the needs of the program

*paid shift with SNPLA

Training Topics

Topics will be covered in an ongoing process as trainee availability and experience dictate. We will work to cover all of these topics in some manner through verbal instruction, classroom presentations, online resources, etc. Trainees should be familiar with all of these topics in order to become a competent, confident HQHVSN Surgeon. Topics for review are as follows:

1. PRE-OP PREPARATION

- Patient intake/discharge procedures; review how to properly fill out all medical forms (Surgery Record, Recheck, Client Communication, Additional Notes, etc.)
- Identification of low and high risk surgical candidates, reasons for surgery denial in a high-volume setting; discuss options for care, referral, etc.
- Anesthetic protocols; emergency drug chart/locations
- Surgery selection, daily “flow” and team management
- Surgical preparation procedures, surgical suite setup and inspection
- Suture size, surgical blade selection
- Proper scrub procedures, gowning and gloving

2. SURGERY

- Review of anatomy as it applies to efficient and successful completion of the SN procedures
- Review of surgical instruments commonly used in a HQHVSN setting
- Maintaining sterile surgical techniques in various high-volume clinic situations
- Discussion of HQHVSN surgical techniques (tissue handling, ligatures, pedicle ties, incision placement, etc.)
- Discussion of appropriate knots (overhand, figure-8, cruciate, Modified Miller's)
- Discussion of how body mechanics applies to surgical efficiency, as well as maintaining long-term surgical comfort and injury prevention

3. POST-SURGERY

- Patient recovery and discharge
- Pain management protocols, post-op/TGH medication options
- Identification and management of surgical complications and emergencies

4. ADDITIONAL CLINIC TOPICS

- CPR guideline review
- Auto-transfusion kit setup
- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) principles, pre/post-op care

SCHEDULE NOTES

- Instructor-led demonstrations of each surgical procedure will be offered prior to participants operating on our patients.
- Training sessions will either be scheduled as "Morning Sessions" from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm or "Afternoon Sessions" from 12 pm – 7 pm; dependent on trainee/instructor schedule.
- A typical training day will involve 30-60 min of pre-op instruction/prep time, roughly 5 hours of surgery and 30-60 min. of patient rounds/review time. Optional breaks during surgery depend on surgery volume/flow of the day.
- During each training session, we strive to give as much surgery table time as possible. Uncontrollable factors changing the patient schedule can arise, thus we ask for your understanding and know that we may end early or substitute classroom instruction for surgery time.