

During the month of March I had a privilege of undertaking an internship in Bonematrix clinic in Porto, a small animal veterinary clinic exclusively dedicated to veterinary surgery, working at the forefront of the latest orthopedic surgical techniques, traumatology and neurosurgery. The surgical team, lead by Dr. Jorge Leite, seeks to ensure the highest standards of quality in animal care, selecting and refining surgical techniques that seek the best recovery, always with the aim of maintaining minimal invasiveness, minimal pain and maximum respect for the patient. I had the privilege of gaining comprehensive experience in diagnosing and treating a diverse range of musculoskeletal conditions in companion animals. Under the expert guidance of veterinary surgeons I actively participated in a spectrum of orthopedic surgeries, including but not limited to fractures, hip replacements, corrective osteotomies of angular limb deformities and more. In particular, I acquired firsthand knowledge in the diagnosis and management of hip dysplasia and degenerative joint diseases, which often necessitate total hip replacement surgeries in affected animals. Throughout these procedures, I learned to meticulously assess pre-operative conditions, select appropriate surgical techniques, and devise tailored post-operative care plans to facilitate optimal recovery and function.

Additionally, my internship exposed me to the intricacies of correcting angular limb deformities through osteotomies, where I collaborated closely with the veterinary team to assess the severity of deformities, plan surgical interventions, and provide rehabilitative support for patients undergoing corrective procedures. This hands-on experience equipped me with the skills to interpret radiographic findings accurately, understand the biomechanical principles underlying orthopedic conditions, and deliver compassionate care to animals undergoing orthopedic treatments.

Before embarking on this international internship, I took several essential steps. I carefully considered my housing options, ultimately choosing dormitory that aligned with my budget and preferences for a comfortable stay during my time abroad. I researched the cost of living in the host country to create a well-structured budget encompassing groceries, transportation, and leisure activities, ensuring financial stability during my stay. Ensuring that the internship aligns with your academic and personal needs is crucial. Here are some factors to consider. I researched the availability of veterinary internships in the desired country, city, university, clinic, or enterprise, considering factors like duration, specialization, and prerequisites.

If the internship requires proficiency in a foreign language, consider enrolling in language courses before your trip. Being able to communicate effectively with colleagues and clients is crucial.

Take advantage of your time abroad to explore the country's cultural and natural wonders. Visit local landmarks, museums, and natural reserves during your days off.

Sample the local cuisine, as food is a significant aspect of culture. Trying new dishes can be an enjoyable way to immerse yourself in the local experience.

Ensure you have adequate health insurance coverage and understand the local healthcare system. Familiarize yourself with safety guidelines and emergency contacts in case of any unforeseen circumstances.

In conclusion, my veterinary internship at Bonematrix not only enhanced my proficiency in surgical techniques and diagnostic interpretation but also deepened my understanding of the multifaceted nature of musculoskeletal disorders in small animals. These experiences have solidified my commitment to pursuing a career in veterinary orthopedics, where I aspire to continue making meaningful contributions to the well-being of companion animals.