

Veterinary Internship Experience

Noor Aloud Clinic, Baghdad, Iraq

July – October, Internship



Introduction to Noor Alhuda Clinic

Noor Alhuda Clinic stands as one of Baghdad's premier veterinary facilities, specialising in advanced surgical procedures and comprehensive care for dogs, cats, horses, cows, and small animals. This high-volume clinic provides exceptional hands-on opportunities in both routine outpatient services and critical emergency interventions.

Despite the challenging regional conditions, the clinic has built a reputation for maintaining professional standards and delivering quality veterinary care to the community.

Clinical Work and Surgical Experience

300+ Clinical Hours

Extensive hands-on practice focusing on surgical procedures and emergency treatments

Surgical Training

Assisted and performed surgeries on dogs, cats, and small animals including wound management

Emergency Care

Gained experience in urgent care for critical cases and diverse veterinary challenges



Working Conditions and Environment



Challenging Climate

Baghdad's summer heat often exceeded 55°C, but the clinic maintained excellent organisation and workflow efficiency throughout the demanding conditions.



Well-Equipped Facility

Despite regional resource limitations, the clinic featured essential surgical and diagnostic equipment necessary for quality veterinary care.



Supportive Environment

Experienced veterinarians provided excellent mentorship, whilst reliable accommodation and transport ensured safety and comfort.



Life in Baghdad: A City of History and Resilience

Baghdad, Iraq's historic capital, served as the centre of culture and learning during the Abbasid Caliphate. The city's rich heritage provided a fascinating backdrop to my clinical experience.

- Explored the iconic Al-Mutanabbi Street book market
- Visited the historic Al-Kadhimiya Mosque
- Experienced authentic local cuisine and hospitality





Challenges Faced in Veterinary Practice in Iraq

Resource Limitations

Limited availability of advanced veterinary medicines and equipment due to economic and political factors required creative problem-solving approaches.

Disease Prevalence

High occurrence of infectious diseases and parasitic infestations in animals necessitated adaptive treatment strategies and protocols.

Educational Focus

Emphasis on preventive care and comprehensive owner education proved essential in this resource-constrained environment.

Personal and Professional Growth

01

Surgical Excellence

Developed advanced surgical skills and clinical decision-making abilities under real-world pressure situations.

02

Communication Skills

Enhanced communication abilities working with pet owners from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

03

Cultural Competence

Gained invaluable cultural understanding and adaptability whilst working in an international healthcare setting.

04

Professional Resilience

Strengthened problem-solving abilities and professional resilience in challenging environmental conditions.



Reflections on the Internship Experience

Noor Alhuda Clinic provided an invaluable platform to apply theoretical veterinary knowledge in real-world practice, deepening my passion for animal welfare and commitment to veterinary excellence.

Living and working in Baghdad significantly broadened my worldview and enhanced my appreciation for global health challenges facing veterinary professionals worldwide.

This transformative experience has inspired me to pursue further specialised training and contribute meaningfully to veterinary development in similar challenging contexts.



Conclusion

Transformative Journey

My internship at Noor Alhuda Clinic represented a life-changing experience of professional learning and cultural immersion.

Community Impact

The experience reinforced the vital role veterinary care plays in supporting communities facing adversity and challenges.

Future Commitment

I remain deeply grateful for this opportunity and look forward to applying these invaluable lessons throughout my veterinary career.