

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center has offered training in large animal ultrasound and cardiology since 1992. The program is currently supervised by 2 full-time and 2 part-time faculty members of the Cardiology and Ultrasound Service.

The fellowship is a two-year, clinically oriented program with the major focus on ultrasound and cardiology of the equine patient. The program provides the trainee with focused instruction in the performance and interpretation of musculoskeletal, abdominal, thoracic and various “small part” sonographic examinations. Interactions with other imaging services permit integration of sonographic findings with radiology, MRI, CT and nuclear scintigraphy. Cases for ultrasound come from the breadth of clinical service areas including sports medicine, internal medicine, surgery, emergency and critical care, neonatology, ophthalmology, and reproduction. Fellows interact with these services to gain an understanding of the indications for sonographic examination as well as the management of each case. Our caseload of >1200 scans /year is approximately 60% musculoskeletal and 40% non-musculoskeletal (including cardiovascular).

Training in large animal cardiology covers the spectrum of acquired and congenital cardiac diseases with a strong emphasis on the management of heart disease in the equine athlete. Echocardiographic training includes 2D, M-Mode, Doppler (color, spectral and tissue), 4D and strain. Electrocardiographic training includes the interpretation of standard and continuous electrocardiographic recordings obtained at rest and during exercise. Fellows will learn to treat assorted arrhythmias in various large animal species, with emphasis on quinidine and transvenous electrical cardioversions of equine atrial fibrillation.

Historically, the program has been a stepping stone to various residency programs (imaging, sports medicine, internal medicine), equine private practice and academia. Successful applicants have come from a variety of backgrounds. While the program has a clinical emphasis, participation in clinical research is possible and encouraged.

If you would like more details about the program or have questions about whether this might be the right path for you, please contact Dr JoAnn Slack at slackj@vet.upenn.edu or by calling 610-925-6692.