

Detailed Program Description for ACVD Website

1. Program name and location:

Animal Dermatology Clinic – San Rafael (applying for 1 resident position)

Operating as:

Golden Gate Veterinary Specialists

4460 Redwood Hwy, STE 11

San Rafael, CA 94903

2. Is the program currently on ACVD Probation? No

If yes, please describe the reasons for probation, what is being done to correct them and when the program is scheduled to be off probation? N/A

3. Mentor(s):

a. Name: Dr. Nicole Eckholm, DVM, DACVD

1. Years in ACVD: 12

2. Years as Mentor: 0 (new program)

b. Name: Dr. Drew Fleischman, DVM, DACVD

1. Years in ACVD: 1.5 (as of July, 2025)

2. Years as Mentor: 0 (new program)

4. Specific requirements for applying to the program:

Established by the ACVD, the resident will:

1. Be a graduate of an approved veterinary school of college
2. Have completed a one-year internship or satisfactory practice equivalency
3. Be approved to practice veterinary medicine in the state of California
4. Be a member of a national veterinary medical association (i.e. AVMA)
5. Be of satisfactory moral and ethical character including but not restricted to being honest and truthful, not be habitually intoxicated or addicted to drugs, and not to have been convicted of cruelty to animals

OBJECTIVES:

1. To fulfill the requirements of a formalized residency program as set forth by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology
2. To provide in-depth clinical training in veterinary dermatology
3. To provide in-depth basic and applied science training in veterinary dermatology
4. To conduct original research in the field of veterinary dermatology
5. To meet the requirements of the ACVD credentials and education committees
6. To obtain ACVD board certification

5. Length of residency in years: 3

1. Is a Master's degree or PhD required? No
2. If so, which: N/A

6. When was the residency first offered? New Program (Applying for 2025)
Has it been continuous since then? N/A

7. How many residents have been accepted into the program since inception?
 - a. New programHow many of these have become board certified dermatologists? N/A

8. What is the average annual dermatology caseload for the institution over the past 5 years? cases per year
3400 cases (consults) per year under Dr. Eckholm. Dr. Fleischman joined the practice in August, 2023. Cases (consults) are expected to increase to 5,400 per year.

9. What is the average total caseload seen the entire residency? (average cases annually times the number of years of residency)
16,200 cases (consults) over the residency

10. On average, how many new patients, rechecks and consults does the program see per year? (give these in actual numbers of cases)
ADC-San Rafael:
New cases: 1,800
Rechecks: 3,600

11. On average, what percentage of the program's cases are dogs and cats?
ADC-San Rafael: dogs: 90 % cats: 10% equine: 0%

12. On average, how many exotic, equine and farm animal cases does the program see per year?
ADC-San Rafael: Exotic: 0 Equine: 0 Farm animals: 0

13. What percentage of time is the mentor in clinics with the resident while the resident is seeing cases during the resident's first year:_, second:_ and third: (This means that the mentor is either physically seeing patients with the resident or can be contacted by phone and available to see the case within one hour of being called.)
ADC-San Rafael: first year: 90%, second: 75% and third: 75%

14. Does the program have access to other specialists? If so, please list:
ADC-San Rafael: Operating as Golden Gate Veterinary Specialists includes Oncology, Internal Medicine, and Surgery at our practice. We also have a great relationship with other specialists in the area and have

access to consult with cardiology, neurology, etc.

15. Please describe your library access: Veterinary dermatology, endocrinology, internal medicine, anesthesiology, clinical pathology textbooks in clinic, online access to journals through ACVD. The mentors and residents have access to the ACVD and WAVD online library as well as the Western University College of Veterinary Dermatology library. Resident also has access to the ADG on-line library of extensive lectures and presentations.
16. Does the program have statistical support for their residents' research projects? **Not in house.**
17. Does the program have direct access to any basic science or clinical science laboratories that the resident can use for research proposes? **No**
If yes, please describe the types of laboratories available and interactions that the resident may have with them: **N/A**
18. How often do the residents and mentors have the following rounds?
(For each type of rounds, please list how often they are held, how long each session is, and a detailed description of how they are conducted.)
 - a. Case rounds: Resident has a one-on-one review of selected cases on a weekly basis. Each case referral letter is reviewed by a mentor in year one of the residency. Case rounds are also presented once monthly at Resident Review for four hours with selected mentors.
 - a. Journal Club: 4 hours per month of journal club review. This involves 1 ½ hours monthly of Journal Club at the Resident Training Day, 1 ½ hours per month at a phone journal club and 1 hour of self-directed reading and review of journal articles prepared by mentors.
 - b. Book Club: 4 hours per month of book club in which the resident will be responsible for review of assigned chapters in various dermatology texts. The book club is led by mentors at ADG
 - c. Histopathology training: Resident will have 1 hour twice monthly of required didactic training and review of histopathology slides and review of basic histopathology anatomy conducted by board certified veterinary pathologist. In addition, there is 1 hour of slide review per session directed by the pathologist with assigned questions and assessment.
 - d. Basic science learning rounds: During the entire residency there are scientific presentations by residents and Diplomates as well as other reviews involving basic sciences 6 hours per month at the offsite Resident Training Day.
19. Resident's benefits: (Please give a general list of benefits and then whom a

potential candidate should contact to get more specific information on salary and benefit packages): Two weeks of vacation and one week of personal leave per year; professional dues for AVMA, AAVD, VMA (local association), State licensure; contribution to health insurance; and an option to participate in 401K plan (see hospital supervisor for details)

20. Does the program allow the resident to attend the NAVDF (North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum) meeting annually? Yes
21. Does the program pay for the resident to attend the NAVDF meeting annually? Yes
22. Average number of days a resident will spend on clinics per month: 18 in years one and two; 16 in year three.
23. Average number of days a resident will spend on non-clinical pursuits per month (not including Sundays or holidays): 6.75 days per month in the first two years, then 9 days per month in the third year of the program.
24. Does the resident have to take general medicine emergency duty? No
If so how often: N/A
25. Does the resident take Dermatology emergency duty? No
If so how often: N/A
26. Is time allotted for externships in other subspecialties or at other dermatology practices? Yes
If so explain: Residents are encouraged to participate in a 2-week externship in the third year of their program
27. How much time is allotted off clinics for board preparation? The residency ends July 15th and the exam has been moved to November, which allows the resident 3.5 to 4 months to study after the completion of their program. Study time is allotted in this time with reduced clinic time starting 3 months prior to the exam and then one month off clinics completely in the last 4 weeks.
28. How much time is allotted to carry out a research project (grant writing, data collection, paper preparation) during the residency (please report in number of weeks)? 12 weeks
29. What are the other responsibilities/duties of the resident? Residents must present assigned topics to the mentors and other residents every one to three months during their residency. These presentations must be complete with PowerPoint presentation and notes. Residents are provided with a critique following each presentation.

30. How many residents has the program had over the past 10 years? [New program](#)

31. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed credentials on the:

- a. First submission: [N/A](#)
- b. Second submission: [N/A](#)
- c. Third submission or more: [N/A](#)
- d. Never passed credentials: [N/A](#)

32. How many/what percentage of the above residents (question 31) sat boards for the first time:

- e. The year they finished their residency: [N/A](#)
- f. One year after finishing their residency: [N/A](#)
- g. Two or more years after finishing: [N/A](#)
- h. They never took boards: [N/A](#)

33. How many / what percentage of the above residents (question 31) passed the board exam on their:

- i. First time taking the exam: [N/A](#)
- j. Second time taking the exam: [N/A](#)
- k. Third time or more taking the exam: [N/A](#)
- a. Never passed: [N/A](#)

34. Is your residency program reviewed by an outside committee at your practice? [Yes](#) If yes how often? [Yearly](#)

35. Please list the papers published by your last 5 residents: [New program](#)

36. Names of your last 5 residents and whether they are willing to be contacted by potential residents: [New program](#)