

9th October 2017

JAYCEE TRAVELLING TRUST FELLOWSHIP REPORT

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL
THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH

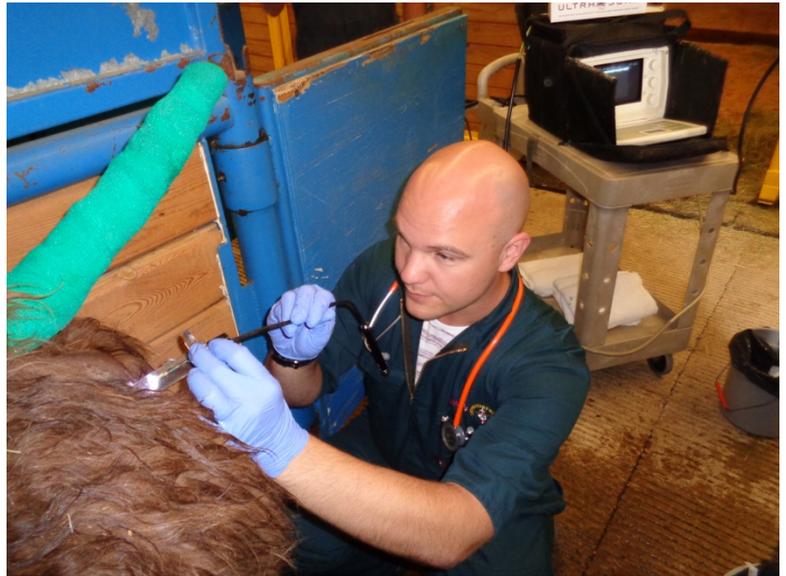
Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Jaycee Traveling Trust Fellowship Review Board, and also all of the donators over the years that have made this funding accessible to students seeking additional opportunities. The funding absolutely makes externships a real possibility from a financial aspect, but more importantly provides a chance to travel somewhere different, learn in a new environment, and gives an opportunity to network with other colleagues within the profession.



To take a moment to introduce myself, I am a final year veterinary student (year 5 of 5) at Massey University in New Zealand. I was Florida born, and now full-fledged Kiwi as I have been living in NZ coming up on 9 years now. I rent a lifestyle block here, and am

running my own herd of alpaca and llama for breeding and fiber (Hillview Camelids). While there are a good number of camelids (alpacas and llamas) in NZ, there are no veterinary specialists in the field. What a better way to learn about medicine and surgery of camelids, than to go to one of the biggest sources of knowledge globally, Oregon State University, with Dr. Chris Cebra and his team. Upon contacting Dr. Cebra to see if there was an opportunity to attend OSU for an externship as part of my final year clinical requirements, I was invited to attend his annual 2-week camelid medicine and surgery elective. This was a great option to expand my education, and as such applied to the Jaycee Trust for assistance in attending the course, and it was well worth the trip!

Over the two weeks we attended lectures by several clinicians all in the top of their field, and with a vast range of knowledge and experience with camelids. Compared to the single set of lectures that I had received here in NZ, the depth of information, but also the practical nature of the material taught, will be pivotal in reference guides and backdrops to practicing veterinary medicine with camelids in



the future. We received lectures on anesthesia, pharmacokinetics, common ailments (i.e. parasitism and colic), overviews of gastrointestinal surgeries and investigations, imaging (radiography, CT and ultrasound), musculoskeletal disorders and practical surgical interventions, nutrition, obstetrics and neonatal care to name a few.

Further to these lectures were invaluable hands on practical sessions with cadavers, as well as a range of teaching and client owned animals. Starting on the first day of the course, we went out to a client farm to perform the basics of clinical exams, routine husbandry procedures of the adults (i.e. toe nail trimming and fighting teeth removal), through to reproductive evaluations (pre-mating and pregnancy diagnosis) as well as examinations,



microchipping and DNA registrations of young progeny coming through. Practice with drenching, vaccinating, chemical restraint and IV catheter placements all went towards best preparing us for every day encounters, plus managing hospitalized patients in the future. We were able to get involved in the universities cases, and as such had opportunities for several other invasive procedures with expert supervision that I would never have had an opportunity to complete during my studies here. After building up skills and confidence over the first 1.5 weeks of the elective, we were then given the opportunity to perform routine castrations on both

alpaca and llama using a range of different techniques. We completed the second week with a dystocia lab (troubled birthing), fracture repairs on cadaver limbs, and then another farm visit to a large-scale alpaca operation for trans-rectal ultrasound diagnosis, a few more castrations, and additional work with cria (baby alpaca or llama).

Since completing this course, I have been able to come back to New Zealand with the confidence that I am on the right path for ensuring the best work-up and management of my camelid patients going forward. Over the last 3 years I had been teaching into the first-year veterinary curriculum with an introduction to camelid husbandry and industry. Now, after having gained these experiences with OSU, I am looking at an opportunity to try and help organize and teach into a special topic camelid elective at Massey University for other final year veterinary students within the next year or two. This experience to attend this elective at OSU, with the help of the Jaycee Trust has given me memories and an education that I will never forget, or take for granted. I hope to be able to use this experience to encourage other colleagues here in NZ to not be afraid to take on managing camelid cases, and give back into the veterinary community by continuing to share this knowledge gained.

Thank you again for supporting this big endeavor to travel over to the USA during the last couple months of my degree. It was worth every penny!

SINCERELY,

COREY D. REGNERUS

Expected BVSc November 2017 – Massey University, Palmerston North

