



## SAVMA Duty Hours Guidelines

### 1. Regularly Scheduled Hours:

i. Adequate time for rest and personal activities should be provided. For all on-site daily duties and in-house calls over a twenty-four hour period, a minimum consecutive ten hour break should be provided between shifts.

ii. For every six consecutive hours of work, a break of minimum thirty minutes for meals should be provided.

If an emergency situation interrupts this break, every attempt should be made that an alternate opportunity be provided to the student to consume a meal.

Students should have the option to take two thirty minute breaks after a twelve hour shift for appropriate clinical rotations.

iii. Students should be provided with one day in seven free from all clinical responsibilities, averaged over the course of the length of the rotation. This should include on-site and on-call duties, as well as mandatory in-class time.

iv. Duty hours should be limited to eighty hours per week, averaged over the course of the length of the rotation, inclusive of all on-call activities.

v. Students should be excused for medical, dental, mental health appointments, with allowance to make up hours.

### 2. On call activities:

i. Continuous on-site duty, including on-call shifts, should not be scheduled to exceed twenty-four consecutive hours.

Students may remain on duty for up to six additional hours to participate in didactic activities, transfer care of patients, conduct outpatient clinics, and maintain continuity of medical and surgical care.

If continuous on-site and on-call clinical duties lasting for a consecutive twenty-four hour period lack opportunity for rest and recovery, a nine hour rest period should be provided prior to the following shift.

ii. No new patients may be accepted after twenty-four hours of continuous duty.

iii. On-call shifts should occur no more frequently than one shift in three days, averaged over the course of the length of the rotation.

\*\*On-site = any work done within the veterinary facility or field in connection to the rotation and away from the student's home

\*\*On-call = student is no longer on-site, however is available to work by being contacted by rotation leaders to report to on-site duty