

## **A reflection on my progression toward entrustment of EPA 2**

First semester of DVM3 has presented many opportunities to apply and expand on my clinical diagnostic skills, contributing to my progression toward entrustment of EPA2: **Develop a diagnostic plan and interpret results**. This is a reflection on how recent experiences in practicals and collaborative learning activities, especially the Equine Dermatology CLA have helped my confidence and development in these areas.

This year in the DVM course has been a great push to start applying knowledge and putting everything together in a clinical application. The HEAPC CLA was a great way to begin the year and lay out clinical scenarios, step-by-step. I felt that I was able to organise a systematic plan in my head and visualise how diagnostic approaches and communications with clients will go in the future. A number of practicals throughout the first semester allowed me to test my diagnostic and result interpretation skills, but the Equine Dermatology CLA Zoom session stood out to me as a notable experience toward entrustment. Although this was a modified virtual session, I still felt very engaged in the discussions and could see that I was correctly applying the knowledge as the answers were revealed. In classroom-based sessions I am typically not the first to raise my hand or speak out in fear of embarrassment in front of my peers. However, in this online session I found myself responding to questions in the chat and getting positive feedback from the lecturers. I was happy to be answering questions and getting more comfortable with my knowledge. I felt this CLA was run very well, especially in the current circumstances.

Speaking up in the CLA made me feel vulnerable. I feared giving the incorrect diagnosis in a text box that the entire cohort could see. I feared interpreting results wrong or missing an obvious diagnostic clue. While I was, in a way, hiding behind the inconspicuous nature of the Zoom chat, it did allow me to fully engage in the diagnostic planning and result analysis. By getting involved, speaking (typing) up and giving careful consideration to my responses, I felt I was able to get a more accurate sense of how I am progressing with my understanding of diagnostic plans and results. It felt good to apply what I have learned the past 2.5 years and correctly diagnose cases. I am now feeling more prepared to be in a position to give clients reliable information.

This CLA definitely gave me the confidence boost I needed, which I plan to bring back to face-to-face teaching and get more involved, in order to continue to progress toward entrustment. I believe I have reached an entrustment level of 3.5 for EPA 2. While I have recently demonstrated an ability to form a diagnostic plan in order to accurately diagnose cases in CLAs on material I am currently learning, I believe I still have some way to go to develop my knowledge further, especially in interpreting laboratory results.