

A-FAVP.1 Foundations of Advanced Veterinary Practice

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Conceptual Outline

The scope of the module is defined by a number of broad study areas, as described below. In order to achieve the intended Learning Outcomes, candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and capability in all of these areas. However, the required breadth and level of study will depend on the existing familiarity which candidates have with the subject matter and on their individual learning needs.

Principles of Professional Reasoning and Decision Making

This area of study is intended to provide candidates with the tools needed to tackle complex clinical and wider professional problems in a more advanced and systematic manner, to draw rational conclusions, make reasoned decisions autonomously and learn from the process. Knowledge and skills **could** include:

- Models of scientific reasoning
- Principles of clinical reasoning and evidence-based practice
- Dealing with risk and uncertainty
- Approaches to problem-solving and decision-making (such as root-cause analysis, brainstorming and decision analysis.)
- Application of logical, analytic, critical, problem-solving and synthetic skills.

Emergency Care

The purpose of this study area is to ensure that principles relating to the emergency care of animals remain as a foundation of advanced practice. Knowledge and skills **should** include:

- First aid, emergency care and pain relief
- Euthanasia and humane slaughter
- Ability to access relevant information rapidly and apply it appropriately

Animal and Public Health Protection

This area of study is intended to ensure that veterinary responsibility for protection of human and animal health is established as a foundation of advanced veterinary practice. Knowledge and skills **should** include:

- Principles of animal disease detection, reporting (notification), and surveillance
- Principles of epidemiology and risk assessment

- Principles of biosecurity, hygiene and animal disease control measures (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice)
- Principles of certification for export and animal health (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice).
- Management of animal- and veterinary-related public health risks (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice)
- Ability to carry out health certification (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice)
- Recognition of health protection as a collective responsibility.
- Ability to access, interpret and apply relevant health-related information.

Animal Welfare, Professional Conduct and Veterinary Ethics

This area of study is intended to ensure that welfare and ethical concerns are integrated into all aspects of advanced practice. Knowledge and skills **could** include:

- RCVS Code of Professional Conduct
- Scientific and philosophical foundations of animal welfare assessment and ethical approaches to decision making in veterinary practice
- Models of professional organisation, conduct and ethics.
- Ability to reflect on the role of veterinary science in the broader context of society
- Critical awareness of welfare and ethical issues as they relate to advanced practice
- Ability to integrate ethical considerations into clinical and professional decision-making

Quality and Safety in Veterinary Practice

The aim of this area of study is to encourage candidates to promote continuous improvement in the quality and safety of their chosen area of veterinary practice. Knowledge and skills could include:

- Approaches to quality assurance and management such as:
 - Managing adverse and significant events
 - Clinical governance
 - Audit
 - Clinical and professional leadership
- Health and safety management
- Skills covered in other module subject areas

Key Skills

Key skills provide a foundation for academic, vocational and personal development. They are common to all learning activity but provide particular support to the capacity of candidates to manage their own learning. Key skills underpin effective performance in a wide range of settings and may assist candidates to respond more effectively to unfamiliar problems and challenges.

The Foundations module emphasises three general key skills areas: Communication, Personal and Professional Development, and Research Skills for Personal and Professional Development, the development of which should be integrated with the other study areas. There is no requirement for candidates to study key skills separately, nor should key skills be assessed separately. Candidates should however be encouraged to identify and address their own key skill development needs.

The following list, grouped under the three general headings, is intended to illustrate the sorts of key skills which candidates may need to develop and consciously apply.

Communication

- Referencing systems
- Essay and report writing
- Information and communication technology, including oral presentation techniques
- Consultation models
- Selecting appropriate methods of communication
- Identifying, critically evaluating, and synthesising relevant information and presenting it appropriately
- Critically reflecting on the effectiveness of communication, using feedback constructively, and further developing communication skills

Personal and professional development

- Feedback and appraisal
- Identification of individual learning needs
- Learning, and learning styles
- Time-management
- Reflection and reflective writing
- Planning, learning and evaluating
- Self-appraisal, reflection, acceptance of feedback, time management
- Confidence, self-discipline, motivation, adaptability, persistence and professionalism

Research skills for personal and professional development

- Basic scientific and statistical methodology
- Bibliographical resources, archives, and other sources of information.
- Literature search strategies and enquiry techniques.
- Critical appraisal
- Ethical aspects of research such as confidentiality, attribution, copyright and ownership of data.
- Identifying, analysing and evaluating relevant information
- Managing information, including understanding professional and legal requirements relating to clinical, professional and research data

Aim of the Module

The overall aims of this module are to:

1. develop in-depth understanding and critical application of the foundation knowledge and skills required for advanced veterinary practice;
2. develop candidates as independent learners to meet life-long professional and personal learning needs and obligations.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to demonstrate:

1. in-depth understanding and application of advanced thinking and decision making skills, in particular clinical reasoning and evidence based practice;
2. critical evaluation of their current practice along with the scientific literature relating to their area of work;
3. in-depth understanding of animal welfare and emergency care in veterinary practice;
4. systematic understanding of the application of veterinary public health and animal population health and biosecurity to disease situations;
5. in-depth understanding of the professional, legal and ethical guidelines that frame and guide veterinary practice;
6. a comprehensive understanding of the value of effective communication, including with other professionals and clients;
7. critical reflection of their obligations towards professional conduct as laid down in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.

Module Structure

This module is divided into 5 study units

Study Unit 1 - Principles of Professional Reasoning and Decision Making

- Personal development - IT skills and time management
- Evidence based medicine
- Clinical reasoning
- Clinical audit

Study Unit 2 - Welfare

- Welfare assessment
- Emergency care and first aid for domestic and wild animals
- Euthanasia/humane slaughter

Study Unit 3 - Professional Conduct

- Professional conduct, ethics and legislation in veterinary practice
- Application and practicalities of the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct
- Health & Safety and adverse events
- Veterinary pharmacy legislation and its practical implication
- Personal and professional support networks

Study Unit 4 - Public Health and Biosecurity

- Veterinary public health
- Animal population health
- Management of animal-related risks

Study Unit 5 - Communication Skills

- The effects of good and poor communication
- Development of Practice Bereavement Policies

- Consultation techniques and use of a Consultation Model
- Dealing professionally with 2nd opinions and referrals
- Practice Communication Policy development

Assessment Strategy

2 x case reports (1500 words), 2 x critiques (500 words) and 5 x assessed discussion boards

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.