

B-SAP.1 Small Animal Practice

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Click [here](#) to view the module content as outlined by the RCVS.

Aim of the Module

The overall aims of this module are to:

1. develop in-depth knowledge of diseases or disorders affecting all body systems in small animal practice including consideration of the principles of small animal welfare, management, handling and restraint, preventive medicine and diagnostic procedures;
2. develop clinical reasoning and evidence-based medicine in small animal practice to an advanced level;
3. communicate case management and critical reflection to professional peers.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. apply advanced clinical reasoning and evidence-based medicine when investigating and managing small animal diseases;
2. critically appraise recent developments and techniques at the forefront of small animal practice;
3. critically apply key principles of clinical pharmacology in small animal practice;
4. critically evaluate and discuss the investigation and management of clinical cases in small animal practice, with reference to appropriately sourced literature;
5. critically reflect on how clinical cases are managed in small animal practice and make practical recommendations to improve it.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 5 study units, each containing basic lecture and reading material supported by weekly interactions in the form of asynchronous case-based discussions, other discussions and/or synchronous journal clubs/literature critiques.

Study Unit 1: Principles of surgical practice, to include:

Surgical decision-making

Pre, peri and post-operative considerations

Study Unit 2: Principles of medical case management, to include:

Basic pathophysiology of common diseases

Justification for choice of diagnostic tests and treatment

Ongoing case management

Study Unit 3: Principles of diagnostic imaging, to include:
Appropriate use as an aid to clinical decision-making
Radiation safety and quality control procedures

Study Unit 4: Principles of anaesthetic management, to include:
Pre, peri and post-operative considerations

Study Unit 5: Therapeutics
Basic clinical pharmacology

Assessment Strategy

- **1 x 500-word truncated case report (10%)**
Students are given a clinical presentation, from which they have to apply clinical reasoning and evidence-based veterinary medicine to develop a plan for the patient. This is submitted in a discussion board, where their approach to the case can be discussed by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element. Feedback from this assessment helps to inform development of case report writing skills required for the reflective case reports later in the module.
- **2 x 1500-word reflective case reports (80%)**
On topics related to the relevant study unit, students are required to reflect on their own practice, using evidence-based veterinary medicine to inform their reflection. Reflective case reports are written following the format of published case reports in the veterinary literature. The case report component of the assessment must be passed for successful completion of the module, and is non-compensatory. Case reports are also submitted to a discussion board for critique and discussion by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element.
- **1 x written journal critique (not more than 500 words) and short oral presentation of the critique (15 minutes) (10%)**
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. Students present their critique to the group, and the tutor and the students then hold a discussion of all papers. These are assessed on the submitted critique as well as the presentation and discussion.

Assessments are submitted sequentially with feedback being given between assessments to aid in the development of writing skills.

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.