

C-C.6 Bovine Mastitis and Lameness

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

The following outlines the modular content as set out by the RCVS.

Mastitis

- Mastitis pathogens, their epidemiology, treatment, prevention and control
- The role of the dry period and dry cow therapy
- Milking machine: its function, maintenance and testing; common problems and their role in mastitis
- The milking routine and teat disinfection; pre- and post-milking
- Somatic cell count – relevance, measurement and monitoring at herd and individual cow level
- Diseases of the udder and teat
- Economics, targets, recording and monitoring systems

Lameness

- Routine foot care, trimming and footbathing
- Infectious and non-infectious causes of lameness and their treatment, prevention and control
- Risk factors for lameness
- Interaction between nutrition and lameness
- Economics, targets, recording and monitoring systems

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to enable the candidate to develop comprehensive and systematic understanding of mastitis and lameness in cattle herds. The candidate will be able to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, successful candidates should be able to:

1. demonstrate a systematic understanding of the management and monitoring of mastitis and lameness in cattle in the UK, and critically evaluate the role of the veterinary surgeon in planned mastitis and lameness control;

2. demonstrate an depth knowledge of, and the application of evidence based medicine and sound clinical reasoning processes to the aetiology, pathology, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and control of mastitis and lameness in cattle;
3. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the legislation relating to mastitis and lameness and how it relates to the health, management and welfare of cattle and food production in the UK;
4. demonstrate the ability to systematically evaluate the husbandry and management of cattle in the UK, as related to the control of mastitis and lameness; make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate their conclusions to the farm owner or manager both verbally and in the form of professional reports;
5. review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area.

Assessment Strategy

3 x reflective case reports (1500 words), 1 x short answer question and/or MCQ test and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)

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.