

C-E.7 Equine Lameness (B)

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.

At the end of the module, candidates should be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the conditions affecting the foal and growing animal, their diagnosis and treatment.
- Show a good knowledge of conditions affecting the foot, distal limb, carpus, forearm and elbow, and shoulder.
- Show a similar degree of knowledge of conditions of the hock, gaskin, stifle and hip.
- Review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area, to enable them to determine its relevance to their current practice.
- Utilise their understanding of Evidence Based Medicine and Decision Analysis to develop practical diagnostic and treatment protocols for their patients.
- Use available resources and communicate with owners in such a way as to achieve optimum results in their practice circumstances in relation to orthopaedic cases. Review the outcomes of at least part of their clinical work, using the process of clinical audit to improve performance.
- Recognise when a case is truly unusual, and become familiar with the information resources available to enable them to deal with such cases.
- Recognise when a case is beyond their personal or practice capabilities, and provide an effective channel of referral.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop knowledge/skills in diagnosis, treatment and management of specific equine orthopaedic conditions affecting the growing animal, foot, distal limb and upper limb.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, candidates should be able to:

1. systematically apply in depth knowledge of orthopaedic disorders involving the foot, distal and upper limbs and developmental orthopaedic problems in the growing foal to the practice situation incorporating clinical reasoning skills and evidence based veterinary medicine;

2. synthesise appropriate protocols for diagnosis, treatment and control of different types of orthopaedic disorders involving the foot, distal and upper limbs and developmental orthopaedic problems in the growing foal;
3. critically appraise literature relevant to the module content and explain how the literature can be used to inform practice;
4. critically evaluate different approaches to treatment of orthopaedic disorders and reflect upon clinical work, recognising the truly unusual case and when a case is beyond personal or practice capabilities.

Module Structure

This module has been divided into 5 study units:

Study Unit 1 Orthopaedic disorders of the foal/ growing animals

This study unit will cover developmental orthopaedic disease and lameness including osteochondrosis, osseous cyst-like lesions, physitis, angular limb deformities, flexural limb deformities and cervical stenotic myelopathy.

Study Unit 2 The foot and farriery

Normal anatomy, examination, diagnostic techniques, farriery and conditions of the foot including palmar foot pain, trauma to the sole and wall, laminitis, and disorders of the distal phalanx and distal interphalangeal joint.

Study Unit 3 The metacarpals/tarsals and phalanges

Orthopaedic conditions of the metacarpus/metatarsus, metacarpophalangeal/metatarsophalangeal joints, proximal sesamoid bones, proximal phalanx and proximal interphalangeal joint will be covered.

Study Unit 4 The upper forelimb and carpus

Anatomical, diagnostic and clinical conditions and the various orthopaedic conditions of the carpus, antebrachium and elbow and upper limb and shoulder will be covered.

Study Unit 5 The upper hindlimb and tarsus

Anatomical, diagnostic and clinical conditions and the various orthopaedic conditions of the tarsus, crus, stifle and hip will be covered.

Assessment Strategy

3 x open book examinations using a range of short answer questions, 2 x reflective case reports (1500 words each), 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail) and a portfolio of 10 cases under the following case type headings:

Joint/Arthroscopy

Foot

Developmental Orthopaedic Disease/Angular Limb Deformity

Tendon/Ligament Injuries/Deformities

Fracture

Please note the case portfolio requirements differ depending on the synoptic designation you are working towards.

Candidates working towards a designation in Equine Orthopaedic surgery are required to demonstrate surgical experience including surgeries performed under the guidance of a colleague with suitable postgraduate qualifications. Those candidates working towards a designation in equine lameness, diagnosis and therapeutics do not need to specifically demonstrate surgical management of orthopaedic cases although cases may have progressed to surgery.

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.