

C-SAM.10 Small Animal Medicine (C)

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.

1 Neurological disorders, including neuromuscular disease

- Appreciation of neuroanatomy sufficient for the localisation of lesions
- Clinical evaluation of the nervous system
- Principles and applications of diagnostic aids (radiology, CSF sampling, MRI)
- The value of electrodiagnostic testing (EMG, BAER, EEG)
- Diagnosis and management of the common disorders

2 Ophthalmological and dermatologic disorders

- Clinical evaluation of the skin and eye
- Recognition of the ocular manifestations of systemic disease
- Recognition of the dermatologic manifestations of systemic disease

3 Introduction to oncology

- Principles of tumourogenesis
- Basic principles of diagnosis and staging
- Basic principles of chemotherapy
- Instituting and managing common chemotherapy protocols

4 Infectious disease

- Diagnosis and management of the common infectious diseases affecting dogs and cats including prophylaxis and eradication schemes, zoonotic diseases and imported diseases

Aim of the Module

The aims of this module are to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of disorders of the neuromuscular system and the dermatological and ophthalmological manifestations of systemic disease in dogs and cats;
- increase the candidate's depth of knowledge and understanding of the principles of oncology and infectious disease management as they apply to small animal practice.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate in-depth understanding of the pathophysiology, investigation and treatment of conditions of the neurological and neuromuscular systems;
2. demonstrate in-depth understanding of the dermatological and ophthalmological manifestations of systemic disease, including their recognition and treatment;
3. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of neoplastic and infectious diseases of the dog and cat, including their investigation and treatment;
4. demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge in a logical and thorough diagnostic approach to investigation and treatment of clinical cases, including an in-depth understanding of the use of laboratory testing, radiology, ultrasonography, endoscopy and biopsy and their integration into case management;
5. appraise critically the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and discuss how the literature can be used to inform practice;
6. evaluate critically the pharmacology and use of the major drug groups, and their applicability to the various body systems;
7. demonstrate the ability for critical reflection on the clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measureable outcomes;
8. demonstrate the ability to recognise the appropriate case for onward referral.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 4 study units:

Study Unit 1: This unit will cover neurological disorders in the dog and cat. The focus is on the diagnostic approach; in particular the integration of clinical examination, neurolocalisation and further diagnostic testing (radiology, CSF sampling, MRI) in establishing a diagnosis.

Study Unit 2: This unit will cover neoplastic disorders of the dog and cat. The focus will be on understanding the principles of neoplastic development and the diagnosis of neoplastic conditions, the safe application of treatment protocols and the indications for referral for more advanced therapeutics.

Study Unit 3: This unit will cover infectious diseases of the dog and cat. The focus is on recognition of these disorders, biosecurity in the face of an outbreak, preventative measures and exotic disease management.

Study Unit 4: This unit will cover the dermatological and ophthalmological manifestations of system disease. The focus is on clinical examination and recognition of the more common conditions.

Assessment Strategy

Portfolio of cases (20 case log book), 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.