

C-VD.3 Small Animal Dermatology (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.

1. Principles of Therapy

This will cover the principles of therapy of dermatological diseases in companion animals

This will include the importance of establishing a diagnosis and identifying perpetuating factors and concurrent diseases.

The focus is on the basic mechanism of action and clinical utility of the following classes of drugs as applied in disorders of the skin including the mode of action of the drugs used, their potential side-effects and the more common drug incompatibilities and interactions.

- Antibiotics, systemic and topical (and understand the importance of antimicrobial resistance)
- Parasiticides
- Antifungals
- Anti-pruritic, anti-inflammatory and immune-modulatory drugs in common use
- Allergen-specific immunotherapy
- Topical and hydro-therapy:
 - Shampoos: cleansing, anti-seborrhoeic, anti-microbial
 - Sprays, creams, emulsions, ointments, lotions, gels, emollients and moisturisers
- Topical antimicrobial agents

2. Management of Specific Conditions

This will cover therapy of specific conditions including:

- parasitic diseases
- dermatophytosis
- Malassezia dermatitis
- pyoderma
- otitis externa and otitis media
- neoplastic skin conditions
- allergic and immune-mediated diseases of the skin
- eosinophilic diseases
- anal sac disease
- nutrient-responsive dermatoses including:
 - deficiency of fatty acids, protein or specific vitamins or minerals;
 - zinc responsive dermatosis

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop knowledge of dermatological diseases in animals presenting with pyoderma, immune-mediated and nutrient responsive skin conditions and skin conditions associated with microorganisms or neoplasia; and to and practically apply this knowledge in the management of such conditions.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically reflect on the importance of establishing a diagnosis and identifying perpetuating factors and concurrent diseases when managing dermatological diseases in companion animals;
2. using case based examples, apply in-depth knowledge of dermatological conditions including allergic skin diseases, parasitic skin diseases, immune-mediated diseases and neoplastic disorders to synthesise management options;
3. apply critical awareness of issues surrounding antimicrobial use in companion animals and methods to minimise the development of antibiotic resistance to case management;
4. incorporate clinical reasoning, evidence based veterinary medicine and systematic understanding of the importance of disease factors, owner factors and patients factors to management of dermatological cases;
5. critically evaluate clinical work to improve outcomes;
6. review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into four study units:

Study Unit 1: Principles of the therapy of dermatological diseases

This will cover the principles of therapy of dermatological diseases in companion animals. This will include the importance of establishing a diagnosis and identifying perpetuating factors and concurrent diseases. The focus is on the basic mechanism of action and clinical utility of the following classes of drugs as applied in disorders of the skin including the mode of action of the drugs used, their potential side-effects and the more common drug compatibilities and interactions.

Study Unit 2: Therapy of dermatological disorders (A)

This will cover therapy of specific conditions including pyoderma, dermatophytosis, allergic skin diseases and Malassezia dermatitis.

Study Unit 3: Therapy of dermatological disorders (B)

This will cover therapy of specific conditions including otitis externa, and otitis media, parasitic diseases and neoplastic skin conditions.

Study Unit 4: Therapy of dermatological disorders (C)

This will cover therapy of specific conditions including immune-mediated diseases of the skin, eosinophilic diseases, anal sac disease and nutrient responsive dermatoses.

Assessment Strategy

Portfolio of cases (20 case log book), 2 x short answer question tests, 2 x reflective case reports (1500 words) 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.