

C-VDI.2 Small Animal Diagnostic Imaging - Orthopaedics

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:

- Recognise **faults** due to defects in processing and film handling, and deficiencies in film identification; recognise problems relating to density, contrast and sharpness due to inadequate radiographic procedure; and recognise, from films, deficiencies in radiation safety procedures.
- Recognise and describe **normal radiographic anatomy** – candidates should possess a detailed knowledge of the normal radiographic anatomy of the dog and cat and of their variations with breed and age. In other species a knowledge compatible with current use would be expected.
- Apply the **principles of radiological interpretation** – the recognition of tissue types; formation of shadowgraphs; effects of superimposition and multiple shadows. Changes in opacity, size, shape, position and function of organs. The use of simple positional and contrast aids to elucidate radiographic problems. The applications of these basic principles to the evaluation of radiological signs in relation to clinical problems in small animal orthopaedics and rheumatology.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop a logical, systematic and reasoned approach to small animal orthopaedic diagnostic imaging as part of their overall investigation of a case in a practice environment;

To enable the candidate to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate ability to apply the principles of radiological interpretation to the evaluation of radiological signs in relation to clinical problems in small animal orthopaedic cases;

2. develop the skills and knowledge in order to apply diagnostic techniques appropriately as part of the overall investigation of a case;
3. develop the ability to critically appraise their current diagnostic imaging technique, and to improve on their technique with experience;
4. critically evaluate the literature in order that evidence based medicine underpins their decision making processes.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 4 study units

Study Unit 1 The head

Normal radiographic anatomy of the skull, jaw and teeth.

Recognising and interpreting the diagnostic radiological features of the more commonly encountered clinical conditions of the skull, jaw and teeth.

The indications and application of advanced imaging modalities in the evaluation of conditions involving the head.

Study Unit 2 Axial skeleton and Central Nervous System

Normal radiographic anatomy of the vertebrae, brain and spinal cord.

Recognising and interpreting the diagnostic radiological features of the more commonly encountered clinical conditions of the axial skeleton and central nervous system.

The indications and application of contrast media and advanced imaging modalities in the evaluation of conditions involving the vertebrae and CNS.

Study Unit 3 The forelimb

Normal radiographic anatomy of the forelimb.

Recognising and interpreting the diagnostic radiological features of the more commonly encountered clinical conditions affecting the bones and joints of the forelimb.

Study Unit 4 The hindlimb

Normal radiographic anatomy of the hindlimb.

Recognising and interpreting the diagnostic radiological features of the more commonly encountered clinical conditions affecting the bones and joints of the hindlimb.

Assessment Strategy

Portfolio of cases (50 case log book), 3 x reflective case reports (1500 words each), 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.