B-SAP.1 Small Animal Practice

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

This module is relevant to a number of species and discipline based modular certificates, such as small animal practice, anaesthesia, cardiology, dermatology, diagnostic imaging and reproduction.

The B-Small Animal Practice module is required for all candidates who are aiming to achieve one of the small animal designated certificates.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Candidates should have a sound grounding in the areas listed below. They also need develop the skills needed to write case reports that demonstrate the following competencies:

General objectives

- To acquire and develop written communication skills required to present case reports
- To demonstrate an ability to communicate competence in decision making and clinical reasoning
- To demonstrate reflective skills that enable understanding of the issues raised in clinical practice and the candidate's learning as a result of completing the module

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate a sound and logical approach to clinical cases and an understanding of the pathophysiological principles of the disorders diagnosed and treated in small animal practice.
- Articulate a rational problem based approach to cases including discussion of diagnostic procedures and assessment of relevant laboratory data.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the principles of clinical pharmacology related to drugs used in small animal practice.
- Demonstrate understanding of principles of surgical practice as they relate to preoperative evaluation of the patient, aseptic technique, peri-operative analgesia, justification for surgical procedure chosen, client education, post-operative care
- Demonstrate understanding of the principles of anaesthetic management including pre-anaesthetic assessment, drug pharmacology, choice of anaesthetic equipment, monitoring and supportive measures (for example, fluid therapy), and recovery/post op care.
- Describe use of diagnostic imaging in the candidate's practice including overview of the measures in place that allow the practice to conform to the basic principles of radiation protection and quality control procedures in place that allow for the production of a diagnostic radiograph.
Aim of the Module

The overall aims of this module are to:

1. develop in depth knowledge of diseases or disorders affecting all body systems in small animal practice including consideration of the principles of small animal welfare, management, handling and restraint, preventive medicine and diagnostic procedures;
2. develop clinical reasoning and evidence based medicine to an advanced level;
3. communicate case management and critical reflection to professional peers.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to demonstrate:

1. in depth knowledge and approach to clinical cases including advanced clinical reasoning skills and evidence based medicine;
2. a critical awareness of techniques and developments, including principles of surgical practice and anaesthetic management at the forefront of small animal practice;
3. a critical awareness of the principles of clinical pharmacology related to drugs used in small animal practice;
4. the written communication skills required to present case reports, including the ability to present information logically, concisely, discriminating between useful and extraneous information, and the ability to discuss the findings in the light of appropriately sourced literature;
5. a critical evaluation of issues raised by a case, or the subsequent review of the literature, and the application of learning into practice.

Module Structure

This module will be divided into 5 study units:

**Study Unit 1 Therapeutics**
- Basic clinical pharmacology

**Study Unit 2 Principles of Anaesthetic Management**, to include:
- Pre, peri and post-operative considerations

**Study Unit 3 Principles of Diagnostic Imaging**, to include:
- Appropriate use as an aid to clinical decision-making
- Radiation safety and quality control procedures

**Study Unit 4 Principles of Surgical Practice**, to include:
- Pre, peri and post-operative considerations
- Surgical decision-making

**Study Unit 5 Principles of Medical Case Management**, to include:
- Basic pathophysiology of common diseases
- Justification for choice of diagnostic tests and treatment
• Ongoing case management

**Assessment Strategy**

4 x reflective case reports (1500 words) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)