C-VF.2 Small Animal Dermatology (A)

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

The following outlines the modular content as set out by the RCVS.

1. Clinical Examination and Patterns of Disease
   This will cover the clinical examination, including the taking of a dermatological history, lesion mapping and the documentation of primary and secondary lesions.
   Nutrition and the influence of diet on cutaneous disease will be addressed.
   There will be a focus on the following presentations of skin disease and guidance on developing a list of differential diagnoses specific to these presentations:
   - Pruritic disorders
   - Alopecia
   - Crusting and/or scaling (seborrhoea)
   - Macular, papular and pustular disorders
   - Draining tracts and non-healing lesions
   - Erosive and ulcerative disorders
   - Pigmentary changes
   - Nodules, tumours and swellings
   - Common disorders of specific body sites: ears, face, feet and claws.

2. Approach to skin diseases presenting with crusting and/or scaling
   This will focus on the approach to crusting and/or scaling.

3. Approach to skin diseases presenting with alopecia
   This will focus on the approach to alopecia.

4. Approach to skin diseases presenting with pruritus
   This will focus on the approach to pruritus.

5. Approach to skin diseases presenting with specific dermatological manifestations
   This will cover the approach to specific manifestations of dermatological disease such as otitis, pododermatitis, anal sac disease and cutaneous neoplasia.
Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop an in-depth understanding of the diagnostic approach to dermatological diseases in animals presenting with pruritis, alopecia or scaling including an in-depth knowledge of potential historical or management factors and development of a logical, systematic and reasoned diagnostic approach to each patient.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically reflect on the importance of history taking and how this impacts on diagnostic investigations;
2. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of primary and secondary skin lesions seen in companion animals presenting with scaling, alopecia or pruritis and the significance of each;
3. demonstrate a logical, reasoned and systematic approach to diagnostic testing in the investigation of dermatological conditions presenting as scaling, alopecia or pruritis;
4. demonstrate their ability to incorporate clinical reasoning and evidence based practice in their management of dermatological conditions presenting as scaling, alopecia or pruritis;
5. critically evaluate their clinical work to improve outcomes;
6. review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area;
7. recognise when a case is truly unusual and demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the information resources available to enable them to deal with such cases.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into four study units:

Study Unit 1 will cover the clinical examination including history taking and dietary influences.

Study Unit 2 will cover the approach to scaling and to specific dermatological conditions such as otitis.

Study Unit 3 will cover the approach to alopecia and to specific manifestations of dermatological diseases such as pododermatitis.

Study Unit 4 will cover the approach to pruritus.

Assessment Strategy

Portfolio of cases (20 case log book), 4 x short answer question and/or MCQ tests, 1 x in-depth reflective case/essay at the end of the module (2000 words) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)