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

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science
**Aim of the Module**

The aim of this module is to develop a logical, systematic and reasoned approach to the management of dermatological diseases commonly seen in practice, including a systematic understanding of disease, owner and patient factors relevant to each patient and incorporating them into a treatment plan.

**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. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the management options for a variety of dermatological conditions including allergic skin diseases, parasitic skin diseases, immune-mediated diseases and neoplastic disorders;
3. demonstrate critical awareness of issues surrounding antimicrobial use in companion animals and methods to minimise the development of antibiotic resistance;
4. demonstrate a systematic understanding of the importance of disease factors, owner factors and patients factors in the management of dermatological conditions;
5. demonstrate clinical reasoning and evidence based practice in the management of dermatological conditions;
6. critically evaluate clinical work to improve outcomes;
7. review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area

**Module Structure**

The syllabus will be divided into four study units:

**Study Unit 1** will cover principles of the therapy of dermatological diseases.

**Study Unit 2** will cover therapy of specific conditions including dermatophytosis, allergic skin diseases and Malassezia dermatitis.

**Study Unit 3** will cover therapy of specific conditions including otitis externa, parasitic diseases and neoplastic skin conditions.

**Study Unit 4** will cover therapy of specific conditions including immune-mediated diseases of the skin, eosinophilic diseases and anal sac disease.

**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)