C-E.15 Basic Equine Practice Part 1

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.

Welfare and management

- Structure of the UK and International horse industry.
- Feeding and Nutrition – especially in the context of specific disease entities such as laminitis. Knowledge of feeding practices for various kinds of work and competition.
- Stabling, bedding, ventilation and pasture management.
- Basic tack.
- An understanding of Farriery – the structure of the Farriery industry.
- Simple / basic epidemiology. Control strategies for infectious disease.
- HBLB Codes of Conduct for management of infectious diseases on Public Studs.
- Quarantine and disinfection.
- Equine behavioural problems.
- Stables vices.

Routine procedures

- Vaccination.
- Worming – life cycles of common worms and their significance.
- Routine dental care.
- Foot care.
- The prepurchase / insurance examination and documentation.
- Ageing of horses.
- Joint measurement Scheme, Riding Establishment Act.
- Passports and identification.

Legal Aspects of Equine Work

- The Cascade system.
- Various types of insurance.
- Transportation of Animals Act.
- Acting as an expert witness – preparing reports. Welfare cases acting as a RSPCA witness.

Emergency Procedures

- Referral procedures.
- Anaphylaxis.
- Bandaging and splinting.
- Tracheotomy.
- Foaling – normal and dystocia.
- Haemorrhage.
- Road Traffic Accidents.
- The collapsed horse.
- The acute limb fracture.
- The acute tendon injury.
- First aid for wounds.

**Diagnostic Procedures**

- Including all aspects of the Key Clinical Skills module as they relate to equine practice.
- Selection of appropriate tests.
- Record keeping.
- Sample collection / handling / storage / postage.
- Basic laboratory procedures such as plating out swabs or examining blood smears. Faecal egg counts both for diagnostic purposes and as a tool to good pasture management.

**Imaging**

- Basic physics and operation of portable / mobile X–ray machines.
- Film reading skills.
- Safe operation of X–Ray machines and observance of radiographic safety.
- Ultrasonography.
- Endoscopy of the URT.
- ECG.
- A knowledge of MRI and Nuclear medicine.

**Physical and chemical restraint and field anaesthesia methods.**

- Sedation.
- Physical restraint – safety aspects.
- Anaesthesia for special situations e.g. foals, pregnant mares, limb fractures.
- TIVA.
- Anaesthetic complications. Especially compartmental syndrome, neuropraxia, and mortality.

**Aim of the Module**

The aim of this module is to increase the depth of knowledge and practice experience in the areas of equine welfare and management, diagnostic and emergency procedures, diagnostic imaging, physical and chemical restraint and anaesthesia relevant to equine practice.
Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate an in depth understanding of the principles of equine welfare, including the role of the veterinarian in welfare assessment, the legislation and professional conduct that frames equine veterinary practice and the consideration of relevant stakeholders in decision making in equine welfare issues;
2. demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the requirements and responsibilities (including appropriate reporting pathways) of a veterinary surgeon in preventing and managing contagious disease in the UK, including sanitary controls in the animal environment: biosecurity, isolation, import controls, quarantine and asepsis;
3. discuss the protocols and procedures in place for the response of emergency services personnel to deal with accidents or emergencies involving horses and the interaction between emergency personnel and the equine veterinarian in the emergency situation;
4. systematically evaluate current equine management systems and their effects on equine welfare;
5. demonstrate a critical awareness of current preventative medicine and disease control strategies;
6. demonstrate an in depth understanding of the value of the use of diagnostic procedures in equine practice and record keeping, including demonstration of the ability to develop practice protocols and a system of clinical audit;
7. critically evaluate the principles of imaging, and the potential advantages of advanced imaging techniques including principles of radiation safety and workplace health and safety relevant to the individual veterinarian as well as associated others within the workplace;
8. demonstrate interpretive skills of basic and advanced diagnostic images;
9. demonstrate sound judgement and experience in deciding on appropriate handling and restraint methods and use of anaesthesia in equine practice.

Module Structure

This module is divided into 4 Study Units as outlined below:

Study Unit 1 Sedation and Field Anaesthesia in the Horse

Principles of chemical restraint and anaesthesia.
Theatre anaesthesia.
Field anaesthesia and anaesthesia for special circumstances e.g. pregnant mare.
Anaesthetic complications.

Study Unit 2 Equine Preventive Health and Nutritional Management

Nutrition and feeding for laminitis, exertional rhabdomyolysis and gastric ulceration.
Preventive health in the horse: horse yearly health plan, vaccination protocols, dental care.
Preventive parasite control including pasture management.
Farriery and foot care.
Equine behaviour
Overview of the prepurchase examination.
Study Unit 3 Emergency Procedures and First Aid in the Horse

Anaphylaxis, Tracheotomy
Wound first aid. Acute haemorrhage.
Musculoskeletal injury including the acute limb fracture and the acute tendon injury.
Bandaging and splinting,
Foaling – normal and dystocia.
Road Traffic Accidents
The Collapsed Horse

Study Unit 4 Diagnostic Imaging in the Horse

Radiation safety and ambulatory practice.
Diagnostic Imaging of the distal limb.
Diagnostic imaging and the prepurchase examination.
Yearling radiographs.
Diagnostic imaging of the equine head.
Ultrasonography in practice.
URT endoscopy.
The ECG in equine practice.

Assessment Strategy

1 x portfolio of cases (16 case log). 3 x case reports (1500 words), 1 x short answer question and/or MCQ test at the end of the module and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)