RCVS Content Covered

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

Alimentary

Candidates should be aware of the following syndromes, their differentials, how to investigate in an efficient and economic way, possible treatments and prognosis.

- Dysmastication / Quidding
- Choke
- Dysphagia
- Diarrhoea
- Colic (medical and indications for referral)
- Endotoxaemia
- Weight Loss (INVESTIGATION)
- Abdominal distension
- Parasitism
- Peritonitis
- Alimentary and peritoneal neoplasia

Hepatic

Candidates should be aware of the major differentials and signs. They should be able to perform a liver biopsy and have a good understanding of the relevant blood biochemistry.

- Icterus
- Weight loss
- Abdominal distension
- Ventral oedema
- Ascites

Respiratory

Candidates should be aware of the major differentials for the following syndromes:

- The coughing horse
- Acute obstructive pulmonary disorders
- Sinus disorders
- Guttural pouch disorders
- Lower airway disease. COPD, SPAOPD, IAD
- Epistaxis
• Pharyngeal distortions
• Abnormal respiratory noises and their causes e.g. ILHP

Candidates should be familiar with auscultation and palpation techniques, tracheal and bronchial lavage, pleurocentesis, trephination of the sinuses, and use of rebreathing bag.

**Cardiovascular, blood, lymphatic**

Candidates should be familiar with the following syndromes:
Heart murmurs and arrhythmias (commoner ones and their significance).

- Anaemia
- Oedema
- Vasculitis
- Aorto-iliac thrombosis
- Vascular catastrophes
- Lymphangitis
- Cellulitis
- Autoimmune disorders
- Clotting problems
- Lymphosarcomas
- Immunodeficiency syndromes

**Clinical Neurology**

The candidates should have some knowledge of the following:

- The Cranial nerves
- Seizures
- Hepatoencephalopathy
- Syncope
- Trauma
- Wobblers
- Tetanus / Botulism
- Cauda Equina syndrome
- Equine motor neurone disease
- GRASS SICKNESS

**Ophthalmology**

The candidates should be able to identify and treat the following:

- Corneal ulcers
- Equine recurrent uveitis
- Glaucoma
- Keratitis
- The painful eye
- The ‘white’ eye
- Central blindness
- Individual disorders of ocular structures including the eyelids and nasolacrimal duct

Special techniques such as placement of sub palpebral lavage systems and
auriculopalpebral blocks.

**Endocrinology**

Knowledge of physiology / function of the endocrine system:

- Equine Cushing’s disease & various tests
- Metabolic syndrome

**Repro Medicine / surgery AI**

Broad knowledge of equine reproductive physiology and infectious diseases:

- Mare. Caslick’s operation, management of perineal lacerations.
- Stallion. Various castration techniques and their complications. The rig.
- AI – outline of procedures for both frozen and chilled semen.
- Understanding of the methods for semen collection from a stallion. How to train a stallion for semen collection.
- Collection of swabs according to the HBLB guidelines.
- Knowledge of common venereal diseases. CEM, EIA, EVA, Herpes etc.
- Parturition. The normal and abnormal foaling including foetotomy and caesarean section. Neonatal assessment.
- Ultrasound examination of the uterus / ovaries and detection of pregnancy.

**Urinary tract**

The candidate should be able to investigation the following syndromes as well as having an understanding of the normal anatomy:

- Polydypsia / polyurea
- Ruptured bladder in the foal
- Chronic / acute renal failure / disease
- Cystitis / urolithiasis
- Haematuria / pigmenturia
- Dysuria
- Urinary incontinence

**Dermatology**

The candidate should be able to investigate the following syndromes as well as having an understanding of the normal anatomy:

- Pruritis
- Nodular skin disease
- Scaling and flaking
- Moist dermatitis
- Parasitic diseases
- Neoplastic diseases
Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop basic undergraduate knowledge and practice experience involving the approach to and management of equine diseases affecting the gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, respiratory, cardiovascular, haemolymphatic, neuromuscular, endocrine, ophthalmological, urogenital, and integumentary systems.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate an in depth understanding of clinical disease syndromes associated with diseases affecting the gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, respiratory, cardiovascular, haemolymphatic, neuromuscular, endocrine, ophthalmological, urogenital, and integumentary body systems;
2. demonstrate a critical awareness of the diagnostic approach and management of diseases affecting the gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, respiratory, cardiovascular, haemolymphatic, neuromuscular, endocrine, ophthalmological, urogenital, and integumentary body systems;
3. demonstrate the ability to utilise a sound clinical reasoning process, incorporating evidence from the diagnostic database and scientific literature as well as the ability to appropriately adapt to client, animal and practice factors;
4. demonstrate the ability to select and carry out appropriate diagnostic and treatment procedures involving the gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, respiratory, cardiovascular, haemolymphatic; neuromuscular, endocrine, ophthalmological, urogenital, and integumentary body systems, taking into consideration practical, financial and professional ethical factors;
5. critically appraise literature relevant to clinical cases in the body systems covered and discuss how the literature can be used to inform practice;
6. review and critically reflect on their clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measureable outcomes;
7. demonstrate the ability to recognise the appropriate case for onward referral.

Module Structure

The module is divided into 5 study units, each with its own assessment:

Study Unit 1 Alimentary

- Epidemiology and Endoparasites
- Fluid Therapy and Colic
- Diarrhoea and Weight Loss

Study Unit 2 Respiratory

- Viral and Bacterial Respiratory Infections
- Inflammatory Airway Diseases
- Other Airway Diseases

Study Unit 3 Hepatic, Cardiovascular, Lymphatic, Neurology and Ophthalmology

- Hepatic Diseases
- Cardiovascular/Lymphatic Diseases
- Neurological Diseases
- Diseases of the Anterior Eye
- Diseases of the Posterior Eye

**Study Unit 4 Reproduction**

- Management of the Mare
- Management of the Stallion

**Study Unit 5 Endocrinology, Dermatology and Urinary Tract**

- Diseases of the Endocrine System
- Dermatological Diseases
- Diseases of the Urinary Tract

**Assessment Strategy**

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)