C-E.9 Mare Reproduction and Breeding Management

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.

- Normal structure and function of the genital tract during the oestrus cycle, and endogenous and exogenous endocrine control of cyclicity.
- Diagnosis, treatment and management of clinical conditions affecting the structure and function of genital organs and fertility.
- The physiology of normal pregnancy, including the techniques of pregnancy diagnosis and assessment of foetal health.
- The causes of pregnancy loss and abortion.
- Diseases of pregnancy.
- Clinical and endocrine aspects of normal parturition.
- Dystocia, caesarean section and foetotomy.
- Post-partum problems in the mare.
- Examination of the placenta.
- Diagnostic and surgical procedures applicable to broodmares.
- Management and care of the broodmare.
- Common gynaecological and non-gynaecological conditions of the broodmare, including genetic disorders.
- Familiarity with the HBLB Codes of Practice.
- Artificial insemination and embryo transfer in the mare.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop an in-depth knowledge of the underlying theory and practical approach to reproduction in the mare and breeding management.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate in-depth understanding of reproductive physiology in the normal mare including the oestrus cycle, pregnancy and parturition;
2. demonstrate a critical awareness of the pathological process involved in mare reproductive problems including infertility, abortion and dystocia;
3. demonstrate application of a sound clinical reasoning process in the approach to breeding management, assisted reproductive techniques and reproductive problems, incorporating evidence from the diagnostic database and scientific literature as well the ability to appropriately adapt to client, animal and practice factors;
4. critically appraise literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and discuss how the literature can be used to inform practice;
5. demonstrate critical reflection on clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measureable outcomes.

Module Structure

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

Study Unit 1 Reproductive Physiology, Examination of the Mare, Infertility
- Physiology and control of the oestrus cycle
- Breeding soundness examination of the mare and other diagnostic procedures
- Infertility 1 - Disorders of the ovary and the oviduct
- Infertility 2 - Disorders of the uterus

Study Unit 2 Pregnancy
- Pregnancy physiology and diagnosis
- Management of the pregnant mare
- Abortion in the mare
- Monitoring, conditions and treatment of the late term pregnant mare

Study Unit 3 Parturition
- Normal parturition and induction
- Periparturient complications
- Dystocia
- Post-parturient disease and the post-partum breeding mare

Study Unit 4 Assisted Reproductive Techniques and Other Reproductive Tract Disorders
- Artificial insemination in the mare
- Embryo transfer in the mare
- Congenital abnormalities of the reproductive tract and disorders of the cervix
- Selected surgery of the reproductive tract

Assessment Strategy

3 x short answer question and/or MCQ tests, 1 x reflective case/essay at the end of the module (2000 words) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)