

B-SAP.1 Small Animal Practice

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

This module is relevant to a number of species and discipline based modular certificates, such as small animal practice, anaesthesia, cardiology, dermatology, diagnostic imaging and reproduction.

The B-Small Animal Practice module is required for all candidates who are aiming to achieve one of the small animal designated certificates.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Candidates should have a sound grounding in the areas listed below. They also need develop the skills needed to write case reports that demonstrate the following competencies:

General objectives

- To acquire and develop written communication skills required to present case reports
- To demonstrate an ability to communicate competence in decision making and clinical reasoning
- To demonstrate reflective skills that enable understanding of the issues raised in clinical practice and the candidate's learning as a result of completing the module

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate a sound and logical approach to clinical cases and an understanding of the pathophysiological principles of the disorders diagnosed and treated in small animal practice.
- Articulate a rational problem based approach to cases including discussion of diagnostic procedures and assessment of relevant laboratory data.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the principles of clinical pharmacology related to drugs used in small animal practice.
- Demonstrate understanding of principles of surgical practice as they relate to preoperative evaluation of the patient, aseptic technique, peri-operative analgesia, justification for surgical procedure chosen, client education, post-operative care
- Demonstrate understanding of the principles of anaesthetic management including pre-anaesthetic assessment, drug pharmacology, choice of anaesthetic equipment, monitoring and supportive measures (for example, fluid therapy), and recovery/post op care.
- Describe use of diagnostic imaging in the candidate's practice including overview of the measures in place that allow the practice to conform to the basic principles of radiation protection and quality control procedures in place that allow for the production of a diagnostic radiograph.

Aim of the Module

The overall aims of this module are to:

1. provide a detailed overview of all aspects of investigation, diagnosis and management of small animal diseases;
2. provide opportunities to develop advanced clinical reasoning skills and evidence based medicine knowledge;
3. provide opportunities to reflect on clinical case management and communicate this to professional peers.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to:

1. apply advanced clinical reasoning and evidence-based medicine when investigating and managing small animal diseases;
2. critically appraise recent developments and novel techniques at the forefront of small animal practice;
3. apply key principles of clinical pharmacology in small animal practice;
4. accurately summarise and debate the investigation and management of clinical cases in small animal practice, with reference to appropriately sourced literature;
5. reflect on how clinical cases are managed in small animal practice and make practical recommendations to improve it.

Module Structure

This module will be divided into 5 study units:

Study Unit 1 Therapeutics

- Basic clinical pharmacology

Study Unit 2 Principles of Anaesthetic Management, to include:

- Pre, peri and post-operative considerations

Study Unit 3 Principles of Diagnostic Imaging, to include:

- Appropriate use as an aid to clinical decision-making
- Radiation safety and quality control procedures

Study Unit 4 Principles of Surgical Practice, to include:

- Pre, peri and post-operative considerations
- Surgical decision-making

Study Unit 5 Principles of Medical Case Management, to include:

- Basic pathophysiology of common diseases
- Justification for choice of diagnostic tests and treatment
- Ongoing case management

Assessment Strategy

3 x reflective case reports (1500 words), 1 x truncated case report (500 words) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.