

## C-E.15 Basic Equine Practice Part 1

**Credits:** 10 (100 hours)

**Provider:** Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute 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

- Euthanasia – methods – collection.
- 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 – including catheter placement and selection. Induction and maintenance with volatile agents. Monitoring methods.
- 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 develop basic undergraduate knowledge and practice experience in the areas of equine welfare and management, diagnostic 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 preventive medicine and their effects on equine welfare;
5. demonstrate an in depth understanding of the value and interpretation of diagnostic procedures, including basic and advanced imaging techniques in equine practice including demonstration of the ability to develop practice protocols;
6. critically evaluate the importance of record keeping and the principles of radiation safety and workplace health and safety relevant to the individual veterinarian as well as associated others within the workplace;
7. demonstrate sound judgement and experience in deciding on appropriate handling and restraint methods and use of anaesthesia in equine practice;
8. critically evaluate the literature using the principles of evidence-based veterinary medicine.

## Module Structure

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

### **Welfare and Management**

This unit will discuss the importance of animal welfare in veterinary practice and will develop an in depth knowledge of equine management.

The unit will include the role of the veterinary surgeon in assessing equine management and welfare, including in the event of suspected biosecurity hazards, emergency situations and advising the relevant stakeholders, and understanding the relevant legislation and professional codes of conduct that frame equine practice.

### **Diagnostic Procedures**

This unit will develop and discuss use of diagnostic procedures in equine practice including the development of practice protocols and appropriate systems of record keeping and evaluation of practice to implement a system of clinical audit.

### **Imaging**

This unit will develop the basic principles of imaging, including principles of radiation safety and workplace health and safety relevant to the individual veterinarian as well as associated others within the workplace and introduce advanced imaging techniques and develop interpretive skills of images obtained.

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

This unit will discuss anaesthesia relevant to practice scenarios with candidates able to synthesise appropriate protocols based on in depth understanding of physiology and pharmacology of anaesthetic agents combined with practical constraints of different field situations.

### **Assessment Strategy**

1 x portfolio of cases, 3 x reflective case reports (1500 words each), 1 x open book short answer and/or MCQ test 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.