

C-EBVM.1 Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

This module is based around five key steps:

1. Converting information needs into answerable questions
2. Tracking down the best evidence with which to answer them
3. Critically appraising the evidence for validity
4. Applying the results to clinical and practice problems
5. Evaluating performance

Candidates may undertake the module from any practice perspective (such as clinical, population health, healthcare management and animal health policy) and be assessed accordingly.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the module, successful candidates will be able to:

- Explain the key concepts and principles of EBVM and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using evidence as a basis for decision-making in veterinary practice
- Transform information needs on veterinary clinical and practice problems into answerable scientific questions
- Search effectively for the best evidence with which to support decision-making in veterinary practice
- Critically appraise the validity and usefulness of various types of research studies relating to chosen areas of veterinary practice
- Apply basic statistical and epidemiological concepts in order to interpret and apply evidence in veterinary practice
- Critically reflect on the application and implantation of evidence-based approaches in a specified area of veterinary practice

Aim of the Module

The module aims to develop students' understanding of the theory and practice of evidence based veterinary medicine, including its advantages and limitations.

It also aims to enable students to apply this understanding to their own particular area of practice in order to improve the quality of decision making and ultimately the quality of veterinary healthcare.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. transform current and relevant veterinary clinical and practice problems into answerable scientific questions;
2. systematically search the literature for the best evidence with which to support decision-making in veterinary practice;
3. critically appraise the validity and usefulness of various types of research studies relating to chosen areas of veterinary practice;
4. apply new evidence into clinical practice by synthesising new protocols for the improvement of veterinary healthcare;
5. critically reflect on the application and implantation of evidence-based approaches in a specified area of veterinary practice.

Module Structure

According to the RCVS, safeguarding the welfare of animals committed to veterinary care and safeguarding the wider public interest is dependent on veterinary practitioners grounding their decisions on sound, objective and up-to-date evidence.

Appropriate use of evidence is a fundamental component of Clinical Governance, the approach to maintaining and improving quality of care which emphasises patient safety, clinical effectiveness and patient & client experience and which forms part of the professional responsibilities of all UK veterinary surgeons.

This CertAVP module in Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine (EBVM) is aimed not just at clinicians wishing to learn more about evidence-based approaches to the care of individual patients but also to veterinary surgeons required to make decisions about the care of animal populations and the wider provision of veterinary healthcare. It is intended to provide candidates with the tools needed to make evidence-based decisions in veterinary practice and to encourage them to think critically about the wider regulatory and developmental implications of EBVM.

This module is based around five key steps:

1. Converting information needs into answerable questions
2. Searching for evidence
3. Critically appraising the quality and applicability of research
4. Application to practice and implementation
5. Evaluating (assessing) performance

Students may undertake the module from any practice perspective (such as clinical, population health, healthcare management and animal health policy) and be assessed accordingly.

The module is available online with all applicable resources and readings embedded within the module pages. All of the guidance is available online.

Assessment Strategy

1 x knowledge summary (2000 words), 1 x clinical protocol (1500 words) and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation