C-SAM.8 Small Animal Medicine (A)

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.

1 Cardiovascular disorders

- Clinical evaluation of the cardiovascular system
- Principles and applications of diagnostic aids (ECG, radiology, ultrasonography)
- Diagnosis of congenital and acquired heart disease
- Management of congenital disease, cardiac failure and the more common arrhythmias

2 Respiratory disorders

- Clinical evaluation of the respiratory system
- Principles and applications of diagnostic aids (radiology, bronchoscopy, rhinoscopy, BAL)
- Diagnosis and management of the common disorders

3 Haematopoietic disorders

- Clinical evaluation of the haematopoietic and immune systems
- Principles and applications of diagnostic aids (bone marrow biopsy, clotting tests, immunological testing)
- Diagnosis and management of the common disorders

4 Endocrine and metabolic disorders
- Clinical evaluation of the endocrine system
- Principles and applications of diagnostic aids (laboratory testing, radiology, ultrasonography, advanced imaging such as CT/MRI) applicable to endocrine disease
- Diagnosis and management of the common disorders of the endocrine system
- Diagnosis and management of metabolic disorders of the skeletal system

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop the depth and breadth of the candidate's knowledge and understanding of disorders of the cardiovascular, respiratory, haematopoietic and endocrine systems affecting dogs and cats including pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnostic approach and rational therapy.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate in-depth understanding of the pathophysiology and clinical disease syndromes, and the approach to diseases affecting the cardiovascular, haematopoietic, endocrine, metabolic and respiratory systems of the dog and cat apply this knowledge in the diagnostic evaluation of clinical cases including the use of laboratory testing, radiology, ultrasonography and advanced imaging such as CT/MRI;
2. critically evaluate the pharmacology and use of the major drug groups, and their applicability to the various body systems and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding and practical application of legal and ethical aspects of drug use, including the cascade;
3. appraise critically the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and discuss how the literature can be used to inform practice;
4. demonstrate the ability for critical reflection on their clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measureable outcomes;
5. demonstrate the ability to recognise the appropriate case for onward referral.

Module Structure

The module will be divided into 4 study units:

Study Unit 1. This unit will cover cardiovascular disorders in the dog and cat. The focus is on the diagnostic approach; in particular the integration of clinical examination and further diagnostic testing (ECG, radiography and ultrasonography) in establishing a diagnosis. It also includes the management of congenital disease, cardiac failure and common arrhythmias.

Study Unit 2. This unit will cover the diagnostic approach and management of diseases in dogs and cats affecting the respiratory system. Management of common disorders of the respiratory system is also discussed. The focus is on the diagnostic approach, clinical reasoning process and evidence based medicine.

Study Unit 3. This unit will cover the clinical syndromes of common haematopoietic disorders problems encountered in small animal practice. The focus is on the investigation applying the principles of available diagnostic aids (bone marrow biopsy, coagulation tests and immunological testing) and on management utilising clinical reasoning and evidence based medicine.

Study Unit 4. This unit will cover the endocrine and metabolic disorders of the dog and cat. The focus is on the principles and application of diagnostic aids (laboratory testing, radiography, ultrasonography and advanced imaging such as CT & MRI) in establishing an accurate diagnosis. Appropriate management and prognostication taking into consideration factors such as the patient, the disease state and the owner's resources and wishes are emphasised.

Assessment Strategy

Portfolio of cases (20 case log book), 3 x reflective case reports (1500 words), 1 x short answer question 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.