

C-VD.2 Small Animal Dermatology (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. Clinical Examination and Patterns of Disease

This will cover the clinical examination, including the taking of a dermatological history, lesion mapping and the documentation of primary and secondary lesions

Nutrition and the influence of diet on cutaneous disease will be addressed

There will be a focus on the following presentations of skin disease and guidance on developing a list of differential diagnoses specific to these presentations:

- Pruritic disorders
- Alopecia
- Crusting and/or scaling (seborrhoea)
- Macular, papular and pustular disorders
- Draining tracts and non-healing lesions
- Erosive and ulcerative disorders
- Pigmentary changes
- Nodules, tumours and swellings
- Common disorders of specific body sites: ears, face, feet and claws.

2. Approach to skin diseases presenting with crusting and/or scaling

This will focus on the approach to crusting and/or scaling.

3. Approach to skin diseases presenting with alopecia

This will focus on the approach to alopecia.

4. Approach to skin diseases presenting with pruritus

This will focus on the approach to pruritus.

5. Approach to skin diseases presenting with specific dermatological manifestations

This will cover the approach to specific manifestations of dermatological disease such as otitis, pododermatitis, anal sac disease and cutaneous neoplasia.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop knowledge of dermatological diseases in animals presenting with pruritus, alopecia or scaling, and how to apply that knowledge to clinical cases.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, successful candidates should be able to:

1. critically reflect on the importance of history taking and how this impacts on diagnostic investigations;
2. using case based examples, apply in-depth knowledge of primary and secondary skin lesions seen in companion animals presenting with scaling, alopecia or pruritus and the significance of each;
3. synthesise logical, reasoned and systematic approaches to diagnostic testing in the investigation of companion animals presenting with scaling, alopecia or pruritus;
4. incorporate clinical reasoning and evidence based practice in the management of companion animals presenting with scaling, alopecia or pruritus;
5. critically evaluate clinical work to improve outcomes;
6. review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area;
7. recognise when a case is truly unusual and demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the information resources available to enable them to deal with such cases.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into four study units:

Study Unit 1: Clinical Assessment and Patterns of Disease

This will cover the clinical examination including taking of a dermatological history, lesion mapping, the documentation of primary and secondary lesions and nutritional influences.

Study Unit 2: Approach to Specific Clinical Presentations (A)

This will cover the approach to crusting and/or scaling, pustules, otitis, facial dermatoses and ulcerative skin disease.

Study Unit 3: Approach to Specific Clinical Presentations (B)

This will cover the approach to alopecia, pododermatitis, nodules/tumours and pigimentary diseases and will cover cutaneous markers of systemic disease.

Study Unit 4: Approach to Specific Clinical Presentations (C)

This will cover the approach to pruritus and the approach to small mammal and reptile dermatology.

Assessment Strategy

Portfolio of cases (20 case log book), 2 x short answer question tests, 2 x reflective case reports (1500 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.