

C-E.13 Equine Dental Care, Diagnosis and Treatment

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Click [here](#) to view the module content as outlined by the RCVS.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to develop an in-depth knowledge of the underlying theory and practical approach to prevention and treatment of dental disorders in the horse. This module will also incorporate the generic skills of evidence-based medicine, clinical reasoning, literature review and critique, communication, clinical audit and reflection.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically apply an in-depth knowledge of the surgical anatomy of the equine oral cavity and associated structures to the diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the equine oral cavity and associated structures;
2. apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach and management of diseases relevant to the topic covered;
3. critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and how the literature can be used to inform practice;
4. critically reflect on the appropriate case for onward referral.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 4 study units, each containing lecture and reading material supported by weekly interactions in the form of asynchronous case-based discussions, other discussions and/or synchronous journal clubs/literature critiques.

Study Unit 1: Dental overgrowths/malocclusions and their prevention

- Review dental anatomy and physiology
- Incisors: overgrowth and developmental and acquired malocclusions
- Marked cheek teeth overgrowths resulting in malocclusions
- “Wave mouth”
- “Step Mouth”
- “Shear mouth”
- “Excessive cheek teeth transverse ridges”
- Safe use of appropriate equipment including motorised equipment where necessary

Study Unit 2: Diagnostic imaging

- Effective restraint and positioning
- Projections, film type (digital), radiographic safety
- Interpretation of equine dental radiology

- Understanding value and limitations of alternative imaging techniques such as nuclear medicine, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging and an appreciation of the indications for referral for these techniques.

Study Unit 3: Dental pathology, diastema and gingival / periodontal disease

- Infundibular Decay – as a cause of dental fracture and apical infection
- Identification of fissure fractures and “idiopathic” cheek teeth fractures.
- Pathogenesis, identification and classification of infundibular lesions
- Aetiology and signs of cheek teeth pulpar and apical infection
- Identification and significance of occlusal pulp exposure and pulp necrosis
- Pathophysiology of periodontal disease in horses and ponies including techniques facilitating its prevention and management
- Pathogenesis and correction of diastema
- Correction of malocclusions
- Exodontis

Study Unit 4: Dental disease in special situations

- The Young Horse
- Geriatric Horse
- The Miniature Horse
- “Performance Dentistry”

Assessment Strategy

- **2 x 1500-word reflective case reports (60%)**
On a topic related to the relevant study units, students are required to reflect on their own practice, using evidence-based veterinary medicine to inform their reflection. Reflective case reports are written following the format of published case reports in the veterinary literature. The case report component of the assessment must be passed for successful completion of the module, and is non-compensatory with other assessments, however there is compensation between case reports. Case reports are also submitted to a discussion board for critique and discussion by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element.
- **1 x 1-hour open book examination (30%)**
Based around clinical scenarios/cases, relevant to the module study units.
- **1 x written journal critique (not more than 500 words) and group discussion (10%)**
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. 2-4 students critique the same paper, and then discuss their critiques and any variations with the group, and the tutor and the students then hold a discussion of all papers. These are assessed on the submitted critique as well as the discussion.
- **1 x case log – 10 cases (pass/fail)**
The case log assessment is designed to assist the candidate in developing a solid foundation for everyday equine practice and demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skill base in the clinical setting.

Assessments are submitted sequentially with feedback being given between assessments to aid in the development of writing skills.

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.