

C-E.14 Equine Dental Surgery

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 consolidate and advance undergraduate and practice experience to develop and practically apply knowledge to equine dental surgery.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. apply clinical reasoning skills, evidence-based medicine and the principles of equine cardiovascular and respiratory physiology and disease to the practice situation to synthesise appropriate protocols or guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and control;
2. critically evaluate equine infectious respiratory diseases, in order to design preventive health care for horses, including consideration of disease control regulations of regulatory bodies in the equestrian industry;
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: Basic surgical skills

- Principles of wound healing
- Prevention of infection and spread of infection
- Concepts of contamination and infection of traumatic wounds
- Responsible use of antibiotics in Equine Dentistry
- Analgesia, local and regional head anaesthesia

Study Unit 2: Dental extractions

- Knowledge of the principles, indications and techniques for exodontia including complications and post-operative management
- An understanding of more advanced surgical techniques for dental extraction and an appreciation of when to refer cases to a centre of surgical excellence
- Endodontic treatment and infundibular restoration

Study Unit 3: Oral/Facial Trauma and neoplasia

- Principles for repair of the commoner fracture configurations by wiring
- Management of horses with facial trauma – including emergency tracheostomy
- Repairing wounds to the lips and cheeks
- Common tumours of the oral cavity and head region

Study Unit 4: Other Disorders possibly related to dental disease

- The thin wasting horse
- The headshaker
- Unilateral nasal discharge
- Clinical audit: Evaluation of the success / failure of dental treatments
- Development of a scientific evidence base for Equine 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.