

## C-ONC.3 Veterinary Oncology 3: Cancer of body systems, advanced therapeutics and palliative care

**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 overall aims of this module are:

1. To develop the depth and breadth of the student's knowledge and understanding of specific malignancies in veterinary cancer patients, including their presentation, diagnosis and management, and the use of advanced therapeutic and palliative care in the management of the veterinary cancer patient.
2. To facilitate reflection of the student's own standards of practice and strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to:

1. Apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach and management of major cancers affecting the body systems in veterinary patients.
2. Critically appraise the use of radiotherapy and other advanced cancer treatments, holistic and palliative care in the management of veterinary cancer patients.
3. Critically discuss the importance of epidemiological and statistical methods in the design of clinical trials in oncology.
4. Critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered, and how the literature can be used to inform practice.

### Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into four study units:

#### **Study Unit 1: Diagnosis and Management of Specific Malignancies:**

This study unit will cover the diagnosis and management of the major cancers affecting the nervous, digestive, cardiorespiratory, endocrine and reproductive systems.

#### **Study Unit 2: Holistic and Palliative Care:**

This study unit will cover analgesia and nutrition as part of a holistic management plan in cancer patients, palliative care and end of life discussions.

### **Study Unit 3: Advanced Therapies and Radiotherapy:**

This study unit will cover immunotherapy and monoclonal antibodies, novel biologics; the principles of radiotherapy, including basic radiation biology and how radiation is delivered, basic concepts of treatment planning, dosing patients and monitoring responses, and side effects and their management.

### **Study Unit 4: Epidemiology and Clinical Trials:**

This study unit will cover basic epidemiological methods as applied to cancer, critical analysis of the literature and basic statistical methods, and basic design of clinical trials in oncology.

### **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 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 1-hour open book examination (30%)**  
Based around clinical scenarios/cases, relevant to the module study units.
- **1 x case log – 20 cases (pass/fail)**  
The case log assessment is designed to assist the candidate in developing a solid foundation for everyday 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.