

## C-POU.3 Gamebirds and Backyard Poultry Health, Welfare and Production

**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 aims of this module are to:

1. develop the depth and breadth of the student's knowledge and understanding of the husbandry, management, and diseases, of game birds and backyard poultry, including chickens, geese and other minor species;
2. develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

### Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically appraise the complex interactions between management, breeding, genetics, nutrition, environment, behaviour, health, welfare, productivity, food quality and food safety of gamebirds and backyard poultry;
2. critically appraise current approaches to diagnosing diseases affecting gamebirds and backyard poultry, incorporating in-depth knowledge of infectious (including notifiable) and non-infectious poultry disease and the effect of these diseases on poultry health, welfare and production;
3. design, execute and monitor biosecurity and flock health programmes for gamebirds and backyard poultry flocks;
4. effectively evaluate, choose and implement appropriate preventive and therapeutic strategies for the management of poultry disease in gamebirds and backyard poultry, including non-pharmaceutical/pharmaceutical or biological products in UK, and their usage and limitations;
5. critically appraise the legislation, assurance schemes, practice codes/guidance relating to gamebirds and backyard poultry health, management, welfare, food safety and zoonoses;
6. critically evaluate the literature in order that evidence-based medicine underpins decision-making processes.

### Module Structure

This module covers husbandry, welfare, management and diseases of game birds and backyard poultry (pheasants, partridge, chickens, turkeys, waterfowl and other minor species).

The module covers all aspects of management and welfare during production, including:

- Ventilation
- Feeding
- Water
- Disease diagnosis and control
- Therapeutics and vaccine programmes
- Welfare outcome assessments
- Legal mutilations and other management devices and procedures
- Biosecurity and traceability
- Nutrition and poultry feed production
- Lighting and lighting programs
- Assurance schemes and codes of practice for game birds and poultry
- Antibiotic usage and reductions strategies
- Food safety and zoonotic agent monitoring

Most major diseases and their diagnosis:

- Viral diseases
- Bacterial diseases
- Fungal disease
- Protozoal diseases
- Parasites and parasitic diseases
- Toxicity
- Metabolic disorders
- Nutritional disorders and deficiencies
- Zoonoses
- Miscellaneous diseases

Laboratory procedures and methods:

- Post Mortem
- Serology
- Virology
- Bacteriology
- Molecular biological techniques
- Histopathology
- Limitations of diagnostic techniques

Preventative programmes:

- Biosecurity and a Health Plan
- Immunology
- Vaccines and vaccination
- Vaccination techniques
- Surveillance and monitoring

Therapy:

- Antimicrobial
- Alternative therapies
- Metabolic
- Supportive
- Administration principles & techniques
- Legal aspects

Food safety:

- Monitoring
- Significance
- Preventative strategies

## 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 short oral presentation of the critique (15 minutes) (10%)**  
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. Students present their critique to 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.

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.