

C-SAM.10 Small Animal Medicine (C)

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:

1. To develop knowledge and understanding of disorders of the neurological system and the dermatological and ophthalmological manifestations of systemic disease in dogs and cats;
2. To increase the candidate's depth of knowledge and understanding of the principles of oncology and infectious disease management as they apply to small animal practice.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically evaluate the pathophysiology of conditions of the neurological and neuromuscular systems and principles and apply this knowledge in the diagnostic evaluation and treatment of clinical cases;
2. critically evaluate the dermatological and ophthalmological manifestations of systemic disease, including their recognition and treatment;
3. critically evaluate neoplastic and infectious diseases of the dog and cat, including their investigation and treatment;
4. apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach and management of diseases relevant to the topics covered;
5. critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and how the literature can be used to inform practice;
6. critically reflect on the appropriate case for onward referral.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 4 study units, each containing basic 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: This unit will cover neurological disorders in the dog and cat. The focus is on the diagnostic approach; in particular the integration of clinical examination, neurolocalisation and further diagnostic testing (radiology, CSF sampling, MRI) in establishing a diagnosis.

Study Unit 2: This unit will cover neoplastic disorders of the dog and cat. The focus will be on understanding the principles of neoplastic development and the diagnosis of neoplastic

conditions, the safe application of treatment protocols and the indications for referral for more advanced therapeutics.

Study Unit 3: This unit will cover infectious diseases of the dog and cat. The focus is on recognition of these disorders, biosecurity in the face of an outbreak, preventative measures and exotic disease management.

Study Unit 4: This unit will cover the dermatological and ophthalmological manifestations of system disease. The focus is on clinical examination and recognition of the more common conditions.

Assessment Strategy

- **3 x 1500-word reflective case reports (90%)**
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 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.
- **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.