C-SAM.8 Small Animal Medicine (A)

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

To develop the depth and breadth of the candidate's knowledge and understanding of disorders of the cardiovascular, respiratory, haematopoietic and endocrine systems affecting dogs and cats including pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnostic approach and rational therapy.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically evaluate the pathophysiology and clinical disease syndromes, and the approach to diseases affecting the cardiovascular, haematopoietic, endocrine, metabolic and respiratory systems of the dog and cat apply this knowledge in the diagnostic evaluation and treatment of clinical cases;
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 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 cardiovascular disorders in the dog and cat. The focus is on the diagnostic approach; in particular the integration of clinical examination and further diagnostic testing (ECG, radiography and ultrasonography) in establishing a diagnosis. It also includes the management of congenital disease, cardiac failure and common arrhythmias.

Study Unit 2. This unit will cover the diagnostic approach and management of diseases in dogs and cats affecting the respiratory system. Management of common disorders of the respiratory system is also discussed. The focus is on the diagnostic approach, clinical reasoning process and evidence-based medicine.

Study Unit 3. This unit will cover the clinical syndromes of common haematopoietic

disorders problems encountered in small animal practice. The focus is on the investigation applying the principles of available diagnostic aids (bone marrow biopsy, coagulation tests and immunological testing) and on management utilising clinical reasoning and evidence-based medicine.

Study Unit 4. This unit will cover the endocrine and metabolic disorders of the dog and cat. The focus is on the principles and application of diagnostic aids (laboratory testing, radiography, ultrasonography and advanced imaging such as CT & MRI) in establishing an accurate diagnosis. Appropriate management and prognostication taking into consideration factors such as the patient, the disease state and the owner's resources and wishes are emphasised.

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.