

C-VA.1 Small Animal Anaesthesia and Analgesia

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 the module is to enable the candidate to extend and consolidate clinical knowledge and skills gained at undergraduate level and to develop an in-depth understanding of the application of that knowledge in a practice environment in relation to anaesthesia and analgesia.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically evaluate the fundamental physiological and pharmacological tenets that underpin current knowledge and clinical practice of veterinary anaesthesia;
2. apply clinical reasoning skills, evidence-based medicine and reflection on practice to the theory and practice of monitoring and supportive care of the anaesthetised patient including the preoperative and postoperative periods;
3. critically appraise the theoretical basis underpinning the practice of pain management in small animals;
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 3 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 will cover pre-anaesthetic assessment and planning, premedication, with a focus on the pharmacology, and anaesthetic equipment and its application.

Study Unit 2 will cover induction, maintenance and monitoring of small animal patients, and recovery and post-anaesthetic care. This unit will also cover intravenous fluid therapy and its use in anaesthesia cases.

Study Unit 3 will explore anaesthesia in different clinical conditions and how this differs from the healthy patient. This study unit will also cover anaesthesia on non-cat/dog patients. The focus will be on the provision of co-ordinated anaesthesia and analgesia plans from pre-anaesthetic assessment to post-operative care including specific techniques and concepts such as multi-modal analgesia and local anaesthetic techniques.

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 – 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.