

## C-VA.3 Small Animal Critical Care 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 aims of the module are:

1. to enable the candidate to extend and consolidate clinical knowledge and skills gained at undergraduate level;
2. to develop an in-depth understanding of the application of that knowledge in a practice environment in relation to critical care and analgesia.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this module successful candidates should be able to:

1. critically evaluate the fundamental physiological and pharmacological tenets that underpin the critically ill patient and apply this in the diagnostic approach, supportive care and treatment of small animal clinical cases;
2. critically appraise the theoretical basis underpinning the practice of pain management in small animals;
3. systematically evaluate the knowledge and practical skills which relate intensive peri-operative care of small animals;
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** will review the relevant anatomy and physiology with specific relevance to the critical care setting.

**Study Unit 2** will examine the use of intravenous and enteral fluid therapy in the critical care setting. The significance of electrolyte and acid base homeostasis will be discussed. The role of nutritional support and means by which it can be delivered will also be reviewed.

**Study Unit 3** will review the area of pain management and animal welfare in the critical care setting. The ethical arguments surrounding critical care will be discussed as will different strategies for assessing and managing pain.

**Study Unit 4** will cover the various means by which homeostasis can be monitored and maintained in the critically ill patient specifically reviewing maintenance of blood pressure, glucose homeostasis, body temperature regulation and support of the respiratory system.

## 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.
- **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.