

C-VC.2 Cardiovascular Diagnostics

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 increase the student's depth of knowledge and understanding of the diagnostic tools available in the investigation of disorders of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems of veterinary species;
2. to develop the student's knowledge and understanding of how alterations in the results of diagnostic investigations allow a diagnosis to be reached.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically evaluate the various diagnostic options available for the investigation of the cardiac patient including performing a thorough clinical examination of the cardiac patient;
2. perform cardiovascular investigation according to standard protocols in order to safeguard the patient and make valid and repeatable conclusions;
3. apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach to cardiac cases;
4. critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and how the literature can be used to inform practice;
5. critically reflect on the appropriate case for onward referral.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 4 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: Clinical Examination

This unit will cover clinical examination. The focus is on performing a thorough and logical examination, appreciating the range of normal across the veterinary species, identifying abnormalities and understanding the significance of changes.

Study Unit 2: Diagnostic examinations – electrocardiograph, radiography and advanced imaging

This unit will cover electrocardiography and radiology. The focus is on acquiring accurate and repeatable images, interpretation of the results and application to a clinical patient as well as identifying artefacts and normal variations.

Study Unit 3: Diagnostic examinations – ultrasonography

This unit will cover echocardiography and non-cardiac thoracic ultrasonography. The focus will be on acquiring and interpreting standard images, taking appropriate measurements, interpreting the findings and applying them to clinical cases.

Study Unit 4: Ancillary testing

This unit will cover ancillary testing for cardiorespiratory disorders. The focus will be on selecting appropriate diagnostic investigations and interpreting the results.

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.