

C-VD.2 Small Animal Dermatology (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

The aim of this module is to develop knowledge of dermatological diseases in animals presenting with pruritus, alopecia or scaling, and how to apply that knowledge to clinical cases.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. critically reflect on the importance of history taking and how this effects diagnostic investigations;
2. synthesise logical, reasoned and systematic approaches to investigate primary and secondary skin lesions in small animals, including the selection of appropriate diagnostic testing;
3. apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach to dermatological diseases 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;
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 Assessment and Patterns of Disease

This will cover the clinical examination including taking of a dermatological history, lesion mapping, the documentation of primary and secondary lesions and nutritional influences.

Study Unit 2: Approach to Specific Clinical Presentations (A)

This will cover the approach to crusting and/or scaling, pustules, otitis, facial dermatoses and ulcerative skin disease.

Study Unit 3: Approach to Specific Clinical Presentations (B)

This will cover the approach to alopecia, pododermatitis, nodules/tumours and pigmentary diseases and will cover cutaneous markers of systemic disease.

Study Unit 4: Approach to Specific Clinical Presentations (C)

This will cover the approach to pruritus and the approach to small mammal and reptile dermatology.

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 – 50 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.