

## C-ONC.1 Veterinary Oncology 1: Approach to the cancer patient, cancer pathology and surgical treatment of cancer

**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 overall aims of this module are:

1. To develop the depth and breadth of the candidate's knowledge, understanding and the expertise in clinical decision making and reasoning skills required by advanced veterinary practitioners in the clinical and diagnostic approach to veterinary cancer patients and the surgical treatment of cancer.
2. To facilitate reflection of their own standards of practice and strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

### Learning Outcomes

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

1. Apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine to critically evaluate the approach to the veterinary oncology patient and the use of appropriate diagnostic and staging tests.
2. Systematically apply the principles of cancer pathology, diagnostic criteria for malignancy and immunohistochemistry to clinical oncology cases.
3. Critically appraise the role of surgery in the management of veterinary cancer patients
4. Apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach and management of solid tumours in veterinary patients
5. 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 four study units:

#### **Study Unit 1: Diagnosis and Clinical Staging of The Cancer Patient**

This study unit will cover the approach to diagnosis of the cancer patient, including clinical evaluation of patient that may have cancer, diagnostic imaging and biopsy techniques; staging and prognostication of cancer patients, including when and how to stage a patient with cancer, selecting the appropriate imaging for the cancer patient and understanding the results, and using this information for prognostication and treatment planning.

### **Study Unit 2: Cancer and Pathology**

This study unit will cover basic cancer pathology, the natural history of common malignancies in the dog and cat, diagnostic criteria for malignancy, immunohistochemistry and basic immunochemical panels and basic cytology and special stains

### **Study Unit 3: Surgical Oncology**

This study unit will cover the principles of surgical oncology, decision making in surgical oncology, basis of surgical reconstruction, and combining surgery with other modalities

### **Study Unit 4: Solid Tumours**

This study unit will cover the management of common solid tumours of the skin, musculoskeletal system and body cavities

## **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 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 1-hour open book examination (30%)**  
Based around clinical scenarios/cases, relevant to the module study units.
- **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.