

REF. NO.	C –E.13
TITLE:	EQUINE DENTISTRY – EQUINE DENTAL CARE, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT
VALUE:	10 CREDITS
NOTIONAL STUDY HOURS:	100

GENERAL GUIDANCE NOTES

The following applies to all C modules.

Before embarking on this, or other modules, candidates must fulfil the following criteria:

- a) Be a member of RCVS, or hold a registrable degree.
- b) Have at least 1 year's postgraduate experience working as a veterinary surgeon
- c) Be enrolled with RCVS if intending to take the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (enrolment will be valid for 10 years)
- d) Candidates who graduated after 2007 should have completed the Professional Development Phase (PDP) before enrolling for any modules.

PREPARING FOR A C MODULE

Before embarking on any module, candidates are advised to plan a structured programme of continuing professional development to help them achieve their objectives. Involvement in 'learning sets' and networks of other candidates working towards the same or similar modules is encouraged; this could be a service provided by CPD providers, or could be initiated by the candidates themselves on a less formal basis. RCVS considers that candidates will need advisers/mentors to support them through the programme. Candidates are free to choose their own advisers/mentors, or they may wish to enrol on a course offered by a university or by other CPD providers, where tutorial or supervisor support is available.

GUIDANCE FOR THIS MODULE

This module can be taken as a 'stand alone' option or as part of a structured course of study aimed at obtaining the Cert AVP Equine Dentistry. The other designated modules are C-E.12 Equine Dental Theory and Practice and C-E.14 Equine Dental Surgery. All candidates will normally have completed the A module, Professional Key skills, and at least one of the B modules, before undertaking a C module, although candidates can choose to work through modules in a different order if they wish.

CPD providers may offer the module as a self-standing course or may wish to combine it with others as part of a longer study programme.

Whichever order modules are tackled, compliance with best practice for all the topics covered by module A-PKS.1 will be expected whenever these are appropriate in C

modules. For example, awareness of, and compliance with, all relevant legislation, welfare and ethical principles, will be required throughout.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objective of this module is to promote a scientific, evidence based approach to equine dentistry, and to help candidates develop both practical and theoretical skills in the field. At the end of this module the candidate should:

- have developed a thorough knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the equine oral cavity and associated structures
- feel competent to treat the commoner dental abnormalities found in the horse.
- be able to take a well balanced approach to equine dentistry
- be familiar with dental techniques such as radiographic imaging, indications for dental extraction and the management of various forms of dental pathology
- be thoroughly competent in the techniques required to maintain good oral health in the Equine.
- be able to safely use motorised equipment for the correction of dental overgrowths where appropriate.
- be able to readily identify cases requiring referral to a specialist institution or practitioner.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY FOR THIS MODULE

It is suggested that this module could be assessed by the following methods:

- A 'steeplechase' type examination involving the interpretation of radiographs and the identification of abnormalities in preserved specimens and photographs.
- A practical test. The candidate will examine, develop a treatment plan for and carry out dental treatment on a live horse within a 60 minute time limit. The objective of this test is to assess clinical examination technique and detection of dental abnormalities, and demonstration of some corrective techniques using appropriate equipment and sedation.
- A 10 question short answer written examination.

MODULE CONTENT

Common dental diseases

Candidates should be able to recognise the presenting clinical signs (and absence of signs) of the following common dental conditions, and give appropriate treatments:

- Incisors: overgrowth, smiles, slants, frowns, steps.
- Molars: waves, hooks, ramps, excessive transverse ridges, diastema, occlusal defects and fractures.
- The gingival, especially periodontal disease.

Management of large overgrowths requiring motorised equipment.

Candidates should be able to take forward basic floating skills from the foundation module and use these in combination with motorised equipment to deal with large dental overgrowths.

- Severe dental overgrowths resulting in malocclusions commonly termed “Hooks” and “Ramps”,
- “Wave mouth”.
- “Step Mouth”.
- “Excessive transverse ridges”.

Dental pathology.

Candidates should be able to identify and classify various dental lesions. Specifically including.

- Periodontal disease – assessment of and estimation of attachment loss in individual teeth.
- Infundibular Decay – as an important cause of dental fracture.
- Pathogenesis, identification and classification of infundibular lesions.
- Pulp exposure, necrosis and pulpitis.
- Identification and assessment of disease of the pulp chamber.

Management of diastema and gingival / periodontal disease.

- Understanding of pathophysiology of periodontal disease in horses and ponies including techniques facilitating its prevention and management.
- Candidates should be able to demonstrate a logical approach to the treatment of these diseases, and the formulation of a treatment plan which may involve:
 - Correction of malocclusions
 - Use of local debridement and perioceuticals

- Use of diastema bur – indications, complications and technique.
- Importance of removing affected teeth from occlusion
- Dietary management
- Use of systemic drugs
- Exodontia.

Management of the dental disease in the Geriatric Horse.

Candidates should be familiar with the special requirements for dentistry in the 'geriatric' horse.

- Features of geriatric dentistry predisposing to dental disease
- Consequences of dental disease in geriatric horses
- History of dental treatments in geriatric animals.
- Treatment of loose cheek
- Limitations of the ability to correct malocclusions and uneven tables in the older horse.
- Significance of loose incisors.
- Temporomandibular arthropathy
- Systemic disease impacting on geriatric dentition (e.g. Cushings syndrome)
- Complications in the treatment of dental disease

Management of the dental disease in the Miniature Horse.

Candidates should become familiar with specific dental conditions associated with the miniature horse.

- The effects of overcrowding, misalignments, impactions recognising maxillary and mandibular eruption cysts.
- Possible need for special 'miniaturised' equipment.

Awareness of some practised techniques in "performance dentistry"

- Anecdotal versus evidence based practise.

The young developing horse.

- Identification and principles of treatment in developing animals such as supernumerary teeth, brachygnathism
- The influence of eruption times of the molars on the formation of 'waves' and 'dental overgrowths'.

Radiography of the upper and lower jaw

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a full understanding of the performance and interpretation of veterinary diagnostic imaging as it relates to equine dentistry:

- Effective restraint and positioning
- Projections, film type (digital), radiographic safety.
- Description of and knowledge of equine dental radiology.
- Understanding of the application and limitation of radiographic techniques.
- Understanding of alternative techniques such as nuclear medicine, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. An appreciation of the indications for referral for these techniques.