One-year clinical programmes
A route to Postgraduate Certificates

- Cardiology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Medicine & Surgery
- Exotic Animal Practice
- Feline Practice
- Ophthalmology
- Western Veterinary Acupuncture & Chronic Pain Management
- Animal Behaviour
- Endoscopy & Endosurgery
- Small Animal Practice
- Forensics & Law

NEW Qualifications Available!
Postgraduate Certificates accredited by Harper Adams University

In collaboration with

Programmes starting from January 2014
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Introduction

We are pleased to offer a comprehensive range of structured, modular programmes across all the key subject areas leading to certificate qualifications starting in January 2014.

The modular framework of teaching is now a firmly established and proven concept which offers the opportunity to attend structured training modules with integrated practical and case based components where possible. All these 12-16 module programmes will help you develop your professional career and represent an excellent way to gain a rapid return on investment in terms of both time and money.

Seven of the programmes have just received validation from Harper Adams University at level 7 in the QAA framework and as a result provide a route to a Postgraduate Certificate in these subjects:

- Small Animal Cardiology Studies
- Small Animal Diagnostic Imaging
- Small Animal Emergency Medicine & Surgery
- Exotic Animal Studies
- Feline Veterinary Studies
- Small Animal Ophthalmology
- Western Veterinary Acupuncture and Chronic Pain Management

Vets will attend the structured taught clinical programme of their choice and on successful assessment will gain a GPCert worth 40 academic credits. They can then opt to undertake the Advanced Practitioner module through Harper Adams University to gain a further 20 academic credits and the award of a Postgraduate Certificate.

The Postgraduate Certificate can be used towards a future Postgraduate Diploma or Master’s Degree and is academically equivalent to other PgCs currently available to the UK veterinary profession.

In addition there are modular programmes leading to GPCerts for:

- Animal Behaviour
- Endoscopy and Endosurgery
- Small Animal Practice
- Forensics & Law

Full details about the certificates available and attendance options are enclosed. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

David Babington  BVetMed MRCVS
Managing Director Improve International
Our partners
Harper Adams University

The ophthalmology course has changed the way I work and encouraged me to approach things in a more scientific manner and take an interest in reading relevant articles when dealing with complex cases, both in ophthalmology and other areas of veterinary medicine.

Vicki Seal, GPCert Ophthalmology

Postgraduate developments

We are pleased to announce the provision of seven new Postgraduate Certificates and a route to the higher academic qualifications of Postgraduate Diploma and Master’s degree as detailed below.

- PgC Small Animal Cardiology Studies
- PgC Small Animal Diagnostic Imaging
- PgC Small Animal Emergency Medicine & Surgery
- PgC Feline Veterinary Studies
- PgC Small Animal Ophthalmology
- PgC Western Veterinary Acupuncture and Chronic Pain Management
- PgC Exotic Animal Studies
- PgD/MSc Advanced Veterinary Practice Studies

We consider that the key feature of our programmes is our focus on the provision of programmes which provide the student with an opportunity to enhance their professional skills and development whilst in the workplace. This development extends a relationship which already provides routes for veterinary practitioners to undertake Continued Professional Development within clinical veterinary subjects.

The postgraduate course suite is an expansive one, due to the need to recognise the wide general practice career options for qualified veterinary surgeons, including many varied roles involving key species and discipline subjects.

All veterinary clinical modules will be delivered by Improve International and assessed by ESVPS. The Advanced Practitioner module will be delivered by blended learning using workshops at Harper Adams in combination with online and independent study.

Delegates who successfully complete a PgC Practitioner programme will be able to progress to a postgraduate award of PgD or Master’s as indicated on the course structure diagram. Please see page 44.

These proposed new developments will add further to the depth of the postgraduate provision for qualified veterinary surgeons.
The General Practitioner Certificates (GPCert) were designed to meet the needs of busy veterinary practitioners wanting to gain a postgraduate qualification, but without having to take excessive time out of their busy working lives. The uniqueness of the GPCert is that through the Improve International modular training programmes, candidates are given structured taught sessions from experienced academics which the final examination is based on. Candidates are required to complete further study in their own time as well as submitting various pieces of course work.

Whilst the GPCert is not a specialist qualification, on successful completion of the certificate the individual will not only have gained valuable additional skills, but also the confidence and competence to use these skills and knowledge to enhance the value of their practice. Many have used the GPCert as a stepping stone to higher qualifications or have gone on to complete more than one GPCert.

This year, ESVPS is delighted to announce its collaboration with Harper Adams University (HAU). Through this collaboration vets enrolled on the Improve International training programmes will have the option to sit a University supervised examination run by ESVPS as the Assessment Partner plus undertake an additional 20 credit module run by Harper Adams University. Successful candidates will receive both a Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) awarded by HAU as well as a GPCert awarded by ESVPS.

The PgC qualification is positioned at a Masters Level 7 within the University Quality Assurance Framework and carries 60 transferable academic credits at this level. A route to a full Master’s Degree is also available and the PgC can form an important stepping stone towards this higher qualification.

The rigorous validation process undertaken by HAU together with their on-going involvement in the GPCert programmes ensures that both the teaching elements and the examination processes meet the highest academic standards. The PgC’s are academically equivalent to other PgC’s currently available to the UK Veterinary profession.

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Post: ESVPS, B6 Torlands Court, Yelverton Business Park, Devon PL20 7PE United Kingdom
www.esvps.org

Since the launch of the first General Practitioner Certificates in 2003, over 1350 veterinary professionals have achieved an ESVPS Certificate.
Small Animal Cardiology
Clinical Programme

GPCert Cardiology | PgC Small Animal Cardiology Studies
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

01 The cardiac patient
Date: Mon 20 January 2014
Speaker: Luca Ferasin
- Recognise human perception of health-related quality of life of cardiac patients
- Appreciate the importance of best standard of care in veterinary cardiology
- Collecting a directed and targeted patient’s history
- Recognise clinical signs associated with cardiovascular disorders
- Become familiar with cardiovascular examination and blood pressure measurement techniques.

02 The cardiovascular system
Date: Tue 21 January 2014
Speaker: Luca Ferasin
- Recognise major embryological processes that can lead to common congenital abnormalities
- Understand cardiac cycle, excitation-contraction and control of cardiac output
- Understand haemodynamics and endothelial functions
- Understand cardiac action potentials and arrhythmogenesis.

03 Electrocardiography (ECG)
Date: Mon 31 March 2014
Speaker: Luca Ferasin
- Understand ECG acquisition and analysis
- Recognise tachyarrhythmias, bradyarrhythmias and their clinical significance
- Understand anti-arrhythmic therapy
- Become familiar with pacemaker therapy
- Become familiar with electrophysiological studies and radiofrequency ablation.

This clinically based course will address the fundamental principles underlying cardiac disease, discuss common presentations of cardiac disease and thoroughly review current diagnostic and therapeutic techniques.

Delegates will have the opportunity to become fully informed about commonly utilised diagnostic procedures via practical ECG interpretation, film reading and hands-on echocardiography. Wherever possible, modules will include an interactive, practical element. Problem solving and case based material will feature strongly throughout the course enabling delegates to extend their knowledge of cardiology in an informative and interactive manner.
04 Thoracic radiography  
Date: Tue 1 April 2014  
Speaker: Luca Ferasin  
- Obtain thoracic radiographs of diagnostic quality  
- Become familiar with interpretation of normal thoracic radiographs  
- Recognise signs of congestive heart failure  
- Recognise non-cardiac radiographic abnormalities of the thorax and common artefacts  
- Become familiar with selective and non-selective angiography.

05 Echocardiography  
Date: Mon 16 June 2014  
Speaker: Pedro Oliveira  
- Understand echocardiographic imaging and basic machine settings  
- Understand M-mode, B-mode and 3D acquisitions  
- Understand Doppler studies (CW, PW, HPRF, Colour)  
- Understand all conventional echocardiographic views  
- Understand potentials and pitfalls of echocardiographic assessment.

06 Pathophysiology of heart failure  
Date: Tue 17 June 2014  
Speaker: Simon Swift  
- Understand the progressive model of heart failure  
- Understand activation of sympathetic nervous system  
- Understand activation of the Renin-Angiotension-Aldosterone system  
- Understand alterations in the peripheral vasculature  
- Understand the complexity of myocardial remodelling and reversed remodelling.

07 Diagnosis and management of heart failure  
Date: Mon 21 July 2014  
Speaker: Simon Swift  
- Understand classification systems of heart failure in veterinary cardiology  
- Recognise clinical manifestations of acute and chronic heart failure  
- Become familiar with the management of acute heart failure, chronic heart failure and refractory heart failure.

08 Endocardial disease  
Date: Tue 22 July 2014  
Speaker: Simon Swift  
- Understand aetiology, pathophysiology and diagnosis of chronic myxomatous valve disease (MMVD)  
- Be familiar with MMVD staging  
- Be familiar with clinical management of MMVD
• Understand aetiology, pathophysiology and diagnosis of infective endocarditis
• Be familiar with clinical management of infective endocarditis.

09 Cardiac tumours and pericardial disease
Date: Mon 8 September 2014
Speaker: Pedro Oliveira
• Understand classification and clinical presentation of intracavitary and extracavitary cardiac tumours
• Be familiar with the management of primary cardiac tumours
• Understand anatomy and physiology of the pericardium
• Understand aetiology and pathophysiology of pericardial effusion and tamponade
• Be familiar with clinical management of pericardial effusion.

10 Canine myocardial disease
Date: Tue 9 September 2014
Speaker: Pedro Oliveira
• Understand aetiology and breed predisposition of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM)
• Be familiar with clinical and echocardiographic diagnosis of canine DCM and occult and overt canine DCM
• Understand pathophysiology and management of canine tachycardiomyopathy
• Understand aetiology and management of myocarditis.

11 Feline myocardial disease
Date: Mon 6 October 2014
Speaker: Luca Ferasin
• Understand complexity and limits of feline cardiomyopathy (CM) classification
• Understand pathophysiology of feline CM
• Become familiar with clinical and echocardiographic diagnosis of feline CM
• Become familiar with clinical management of feline CM
• Understand pathophysiology and management of feline tachycardiomyopathy

12 Congenital abnormalities
Date: Tue 7 October 2014
Speaker: Pedro Oliveira
• Pathophysiology and clinical management of patent ductus arteriosus
• Pathophysiology and clinical management of pulmonic and aortic stenosis
• Pathophysiology and clinical management of mitral and tricuspid dysplasia
• Pathophysiology and clinical management of ventricular and atrial septal defects
• Advanced techniques for diagnosis and treatment of cardiac congenital defects.

13 The fainting patient
Date: Mon 17 November 2014
Speaker: Luca Ferasin
• Differentiate syncope from seizures and falling
• Understand and manage episodic falling and exercise intolerance
• Successfully investigate syncopal patients and be familiar with available diagnostic techniques and therapies for syncope.

14 Cardiovascular manifestations of systemic disease
Date: Tue 18 November 2014
Speaker: Luca Ferasin
• Pathophysiology and management of systemic hypertension and pulmonary hypertension
• Pathophysiology and management arterial thromboembolism
• Cardiovascular manifestations of thyroid dysfunctions and of diabetes and hyperadrenocorticism.
Diagnostic Imaging Clinical Programme

GP Cert Diagnostic Imaging | PgC Small Animal Diagnostic Imaging
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

This revised highly practical course will bring together ultrasonography, radiology and CT/MRI in a series of interactive modules.

The fundamental principles of all the imaging modalities including their applications will be covered in detail. Delegates will have the opportunity to become fully informed about the different diagnostic procedures via hands-on scanning sessions and film reading. Case based material will feature strongly throughout the course.

The modules will assist delegates in consolidating their knowledge of the key imaging modalities and in choosing the most clinically appropriate diagnostic method. Wide use of interactive teaching, practical scanning and film reading will ensure that by the end of the course delegates will have gained substantial experience and confidence in their technique and interpretation of clinical cases.

01 Ultrasonography I: Introduction to diagnostic imaging modalities*
Date: Thu 23 January 2014
Speaker: Tim Trevail
- Apply the physics and principles of ultrasound
- Understand machine settings and controls and be able to optimise image quality and avoid artefacts
- Perform ultrasonography of the liver and spleen and the gastrointestinal tract.

02 Ultrasonography II: Introduction to diagnostic imaging modalities*
Date: Fri 24 January 2014
Speaker: Tim Trevail
- Perform ultrasonography of the reproductive tract and urinary tract
- Obtain standard echocardiographic views
- Obtain the useful ultrasonographic measurements needed to make diagnoses.

03 Radiography, CT & MRI: Introduction to diagnostic imaging modalities
Date: Thu 27 March 2014
Speaker: Fintan McEvoy
- Explain the principles of conventional and digital radiography
- Evaluate and improve image quality
- Understand the basis of radiographic interpretation
- Explain the principles, strengths, limitations and principles of CT
- Explain the principles, strengths, limitations and principles of MRI
- Appreciate the requirements for radiation protection in the workplace including knowledge of the Ionising Radiation Regulations
- Select appropriate contrast agents.

*Module includes practical scanning session.
04 Abdominal radiology and CT
Date: Fri 28 March 2014
Speaker: Fintan McEvoy
- Recognise the normal radiographic appearance of the abdomen
- Interpret radiological changes associated with diseases of the abdominal wall, peritoneal cavity, retroperitoneal space, liver, spleen, pancreas, adrenal glands, lymph nodes, urogenital and gastrointestinal systems
- Understand the value of contrast studies in the evaluation of the urogenital and gastrointestinal systems
- View CT images demonstrating the normal appearance of the abdomen
- Understand when to choose CT as a diagnostic modality in abdominal conditions

Module includes a film reading session.

05 Abdominal ultrasonography day 1*
Date: Thu 15 May 2014
Speaker: Abby Caine
- Set up the machine and record images
- Recognise commonly seen artefacts
- Recognise the normal anatomy and ultrasonographic appearance of the abdomen
- Appreciate the ultrasonographic changes and common diseases of the abdominal wall, peritoneal cavity, retroperitoneal space, liver and spleen.

06 Abdominal ultrasonography day 2*
Date: Fri 16 May 2014
Speaker: Abby Caine
- Appreciate the ultrasonographic changes and common diseases of the pancreas, adrenal glands, lymph nodes, urogenital and gastrointestinal systems
- Perform elementary Doppler techniques
- Perform ultrasound guided biopsy and aspiration.

07 Thoracic radiology I
Date: Wed 9 July 2014
Speaker: Kate Bradley
- Utilise appropriate radiographic techniques in the thorax
- Recognise the normal radiographic appearance of the thoracic wall, pleural cavity, diaphragm and mediastinum
- Interpret radiological changes associated with disease of the thoracic wall, pleural space and mediastinum
- Have the knowledge to perform and interpret contrast studies of the oesophagus.

This module includes a film reading session and case discussion.

08 Thoracic radiology II
Date: Thu 10 July 2014
Speaker: Kate Bradley
- Recognise the normal radiographic appearance of the thorax
- Interpret radiological changes associated with disease of the heart, lungs and thoracic vasculature
- Understand when to choose CT as a diagnostic modality in thoracic conditions.

09 Echocardiography I*
Date: Mon 1 September 2014
Speaker: Joao Loureiro
- Recognise the normal anatomy and ultrasonographic appearance of the heart
- Perform an echocardiographic examination
- Obtain the standard echocardiographic views and know how to optimise them
- Obtain the useful ultrasonographic measurements needed to make a diagnosis.
10 Echocardiography I*
Date: Tue 2 September 2014
Speaker: Joao Loureiro
- Identify the typical changes seen in common acquired cardiac diseases such as
- Diseases of the myocardium, pericardium and heart valves
- Identify the typical changes seen in common congenital diseases such as diseases of the myocardium, pericardium and heart valves
- Recognise cardiac shunts
- The theory and use of Doppler echocardiography.

11 Radiology and CT of the skeletal system I
Date: Thu 16 October 2014
Speaker: Virginie Barberet
- Recognise the normal radiographic appearance and radiographic changes associated with diseases of the head and soft tissues of the neck (thyroid glands and lymph nodes)
- Recognise fractures and interpret stages of fracture healing and complications
- Discuss the radiographic signs and differentiation of infection and neoplasia
- Diagnose various metabolic and nutritional bone diseases
- Perform arthrography
- View CT images demonstrating the normal appearance of the skeletal system and understand when to choose CT as a diagnostic modality in musculoskeletal conditions.

This module includes a film reading session.

12 Radiology, CT and MRI of the head and vertebral column
Date: Fri 17 October 2014
Speaker: Virginie Barberet
- Recognise the normal radiographic appearance and radiographic changes associated with diseases of the head and soft tissues of the neck (thyroid glands and lymph nodes)
- Recognise the normal radiographic appearance of the spine and radiographic changes associated with common diseases of the spine
- Have an understanding of the use of myelography and CT myelography
- Have an understanding of the utilisation of CT and MRI in clinical neurology
- Make informed choices in selecting CT or MRI and when to refer cases for these investigative procedures.

This module includes a film reading session.

13 Thoracic ultrasonography (except heart)*
Date: Thu 4 December 2014
Speaker: Pete Mantis
- Recognise the normal anatomy and ultrasonographic appearance of the thorax excluding the heart
- Recognise the ultrasonographic changes and common diseases of the mediastinum, pleural space and lungs
- Understand the approach to ultrasound guided biopsy and aspiration techniques
- Review echocardiography and practise obtaining the standard views and measurements.

14 Ultrasonography of the skeletal system, head and neck ultrasonography*
Date: Fri 5 December 2014
Speaker: Pete Mantis
- Recognise the normal appearance and deviations from normal of muscles and tendons. Practical identification and examination of the biceps tendon and common calcaneal tendon
- Recognise the normal anatomy and ultrasonographic appearance of the thyroid gland, lymph nodes and salivary glands
- Interpret ultrasonographic changes associated with diseases of the thyroid gland, lymph nodes and salivary glands
- Understand the applications of ultrasound in examining the eye.
Small Animal Emergency Medicine and Surgery Clinical Programme

GPCert Emergency Medicine & Surgery | PgC Small Animal Emergency Medicine & Surgery

Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

Current interest in small animal accident and emergency medicine and surgery is greater now than ever before.

This exciting modular course is dedicated to providing high quality, relevant, clinically useful information for the small animal practitioner. Information that is practically relevant is presented using an approach based around the major organ systems.

Interactive discussions and clinical case material will be used to highlight important elements in successful patient management. This course will be of immense value to all veterinary surgeons and particularly those who see emergency cases as part of their regular workload.

The modules will assist delegates in consolidating their knowledge of medical and surgical emergency situations and help them develop a structured clinical approach to the emergency patient.

01 The initial approach to the emergency patient

Date: Tue 14 January 2014
Speaker: Gayle Hallowell

- Understand the administrative, legal and ethical issues involving the critically ill patient
- Appreciate triage systems and detail a suitable initial patient assessment
- Explain emergency vascular access techniques including jugular and intrasosseous routes
- Understand pain management, stabilisation and monitoring
- Understand when transfusion should be considered and appreciate that there are no ‘magic’ numbers

02 Laboratory diagnosis, clinical pathology and transfusion medicine

Date: Wed 15 January 2014
Speaker: Sara Gould

- Understand sampling techniques, processing, storage and data recording
- Apply knowledge to using the microscope to examine blood smears, urinary sediment and basic cytology and be able to diagnose common acute and chronic conditions seen in general practice
- Assess haemostasis
- Interpret clinical laboratory medicine information including haematology, biochemistry, electrolyte and arterial and blood gas analyses
- Understand when transfusion should be considered and appreciate that there are no ‘magic’ numbers
• Select appropriate blood products and protocols to minimise adverse outcomes
• Manage common conditions leading to haematological abnormalities requiring transfusion.

03 Anaesthesia, analgesia and sedation and therapeutics

Date: Tue 25 March 2014
Speaker: Dan Holden

• Detail an approach to patient stabilisation prior to anaesthesia
• Select appropriate parenteral and inhalational anaesthetic regimes and appreciate their relative advantages and disadvantages. Sedation versus anaesthesia.
• Have an understanding of anaesthetic equipment and monitoring techniques and their advantages and disadvantages
• Explain the selection of NSAIDs, opioids, local anaesthetic and topical treatment options for the emergency patient
• Understand the pharmacokinetics, potential interactions and adverse effects of commonly used therapeutic agents including anti-microbials and anti-parasiticides in addition to anaesthetics and anti-inflammatorieds in the emergency patient
• Understand the use of neuromuscular blockers.

04 Supporting the emergency patient

Date: Wed 26 March 2014
Speaker: Gayle Hallowell

• Assess, recognise and treat shock
• Appreciate the indications for the different types of fluid therapy with their advantages and disadvantages and the need for electrolyte supplementation.
• Review techniques for venous access: sites, catheter placement, preparations and complications including advanced techniques and intraosseous techniques
• Have a general understanding of acid-base balance and its treatment
• Explain the need to monitor for complications during treatment and to record central venous pressure
• Appreciate the importance of acute malnutrition
• Formulate a plan to provide enteral, total parenteral and partial parenteral nutrition.

05 The principles of surgery and the approach to trauma and wound management

Date: Tue 13 May 2014
Speaker: Guillaume Chanoit

• Stabilise a patient prior to surgery, plan surgery and manage complications
• Appreciate the indications for immediate surgical intervention
• Understand surgical asepsis, theatre protocol and the rational use of antimicrobials in surgical patients
• Approach the acute management of haemostasis, abdominal trauma, brain and/or spinal trauma and respiratory trauma
• Approach external soft tissue wounds, myocardial injury and musculoskeletal trauma.

06 Gastrointestinal emergencies
Date: Wed 14 May 2014
Speaker: Guillaume Chanoit
• Approach the acute abdomen
• Understand the common emergency conditions affecting the oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, liver and pancreas
• Formulate a diagnostic plan, including the use of imaging modalities, and effective monitoring strategies for these cases
• Understand appropriate surgical intervention.

07 Cardiovascular emergencies & CPCR
Date: Mon 7 July 2014
Speaker: Joao Loureiro
• Understand the cardiovascular assessment and management of patients presented with cardiovascular emergencies
• Understand the cardiovascular assessment and management of patients presented with cardiovascular emergencies
• Utilise and interpret a range of diagnostic techniques including ECGs, radiographs, echocardiographs and laboratory data
• Diagnose and manage acute canine congestive heart failure, feline cardiomyopathy and aortic thromboembolism
• Diagnose and manage pericardial disease and understand how to perform pericardiocentesis
• Diagnose and manage cardiac anhythmias
• Consider the predisposing factors likely to result in cardiac arrest, how this changes the approach to CPCR and determining prognosis following CPCR
• Understand the various components of CPCR (DABC) and their various importance.

08 Respiratory tract emergencies
Date: Tue 8 July 2014
Speaker: Dan Holden
• Understand the general approach to dyspnoea
• Utilise and interpret a range of diagnostic techniques for respiratory patients including auscultation, radiography, endoscopy and arterial blood gas analysis to localise the underlying cause
• Appreciate the methods of oxygen delivery and be able to monitor the efficacy of treatment
• Understand the problems associated with oxygen delivery
• Explain the techniques available for drainage of the pleural cavity.

09 Neurological and toxicological emergencies
Date: Tue 23 September 2014
Speaker: Laurent Garosi
• Perform a neurological examination
• Select appropriate diagnostic tests and apply them to individual cases, including radiography and CSF analysis
• Understand how to manage common neurological emergencies
• Appreciate the fundamentals of neurosurgery
• Recall the common toxicities such as insecticides, molluscicides, rodenticides, herbicides, household preparations and plants
• Diagnose, treat and assess the prognosis of patients presented with the common poisonings.

10 Ophthalmological emergencies
Date: Wed 24 September 2014
Speaker: John Mould
• Perform a practical ophthalmological examination
• Recognise normal features and variants
• Formulate a diagnostic approach to common presentations including the red eye, ocular pain, ocular discharge and blindness
- Understand the medical and surgical management of common ocular conditions including corneal ulceration, uveitis and glaucoma
- Understand ocular manifestations of systemic disease
- Select current ocular medications and have an understanding of therapeutics.

11 Renal, urinary tract, reproductive and paediatric emergencies
Date: Tue 4 November 2014
Speaker: Dan Holden
- Apply diagnostic techniques including laboratory investigations and imaging to these cases
- Investigate and manage common renal and urinary tract emergencies
- Understand the principles of renal, ureteral, bladder and urethral surgery
- Formulate an approach to cystocentesis and the placing and maintenance of urinary catheters and appreciate their limitations
- Understand normal reproductive physiology and function and the physiology of conversion from foetal to neonatal circulation
- Appreciate the common important clinical signs associated with reproductive and paediatric emergencies
- Plan a diagnostic approach to these cases and manage common conditions.

12 Endocrine and metabolic emergencies
Date: Wed 5 November 2014
Speaker: Dan Holden
- Detail the common metabolic conditions requiring urgent or emergency therapy
- Understand the impact of metabolic disturbances on the patient’s major body systems
- Devise an approach to the diagnosis and management of common endocrine emergencies
- Understand key diagnostic tests and their application
- Appreciate the complications encountered during therapy, their prevention and management.

13 Emergencies in rabbits, rodents and cage birds
Date: Tue 9 December 2014
Speaker: Richard Saunders
- Interpret the practical findings of a physical examination
- Formulate a diagnostic approach to common presentations of emergency conditions
- Manage common emergency conditions
- Approach the anaesthesia and analgesia of these species in emergency situations.

14 Practical session
Date: Wed 10 December 2014
Speaker: Guillaume Chanoit
This practical day will provide delegates with the opportunity to practise the following techniques in the wet-lab:
- Tracheotomy and chest drain placement
- Emergency abdominal surgery including the approach to the acute abdomen and peritonitis, enterotomy and enterectomy
- Gastric dilatation/ volvulus and gastropexies
- Urinary obstruction including urethrotomy in the dog and perineal urethrostomy in the cat.
Exotic Animal Practice
Clinical Programme

GPCert Exotic Animal Practice
PgC Exotic Animal Studies
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

Exotic pets often fill veterinary surgeons with dread as they come through the surgery door.

This course will leave you fully equipped to understand and treat the more varied cases and species. The course includes taught sessions on all key areas and promises to bring you fully up to date with all of the current and emerging issues.

The modules will assist delegates in consolidating their knowledge of exotic medicine and surgery and help them develop an informed clinical approach to the exotic patient.

01 Clinical pathology
Date: Thu 9 January 2014
Speaker: Sharon Redrobe
- Understand how to collect diagnostic samples including sampling sites and blood volumes, faecal, urine and bone marrow samples
- Interpret haematological profiles based on knowledge of normal values and the changes which occur in disease processes
- Interpret biochemical profiles based on knowledge of normal values and the changes which occur in disease processes
- Evaluate bone marrow samples
- Understand how to collect and evaluate cytological samples
- Appreciate microbiological investigation of exotic animals.

02 Therapeutics and immunisation
Date: Fri 10 January 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling
- Explain how various legislation relates to the pharmacy and have a knowledge of the Medicines Act 1968, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the COSHH regulations 2002
- Understand the correct storage, dispensing and labelling of medicines
- Understand the pharmacokinetics, potential interactions and adverse effects of common therapeutic agents including anaesthetics, anti-inflammatory, analgesics, anti-microbials and anti-parasitics.
- Immunisation of exotic patients
- Delivery of drugs to exotic pets and zoo animals.
03 Principles of anaesthesia, emergency and critical care medicine
Date: Thu 13 March 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling
- Identify the type of fluid replacement required
- Calculate fluid requirements
- Appreciate different administration techniques and cannulation techniques
- Select appropriate agents for the restraint, premedication, induction and maintenance of anaesthesia
- Monitor anaesthesia
- Apply knowledge of emergency and resuscitation techniques in anaesthesia to clinical situations if required
- Understand the basic principles of emergency and critical care medicine of exotic pets.

04 Current concepts in surgery
Date: Fri 14 March 2014
Speaker: Romain Pizzi
- Understand basic surgical techniques, surgical neutering and coelomic surgery
- Use knowledge gained to implant microchips
- Apply knowledge gained to performing various oesphagostomy techniques
- Understand how to repair shell and beak defects
- Explain the use of radiosurgery in exotics
- Approach the orthopaedic patient and understand the common fracture types in different species, the principles of internal and external fracture repair and muscle tendon adhesions.

05 Diagnostic imaging
Date: Thu 8 May 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling
Appreciate the value of imaging techniques in mammals, reptiles and avian species including:
- Radiography and radiology of soft tissues and the skeleton
- Contrast media techniques
- Ultrasonography and echocardiography
- Principles of endoscopy including the respiratory, gastrointestinal and reproductive tracts

06 Biology, nutrition, husbandry and common diseases of rabbits
Date: Fri 9 May 2014
Speaker: Richard Saunders
- Diagnose and treat dermatological diseases
- Investigate and treat gastrointestinal diseases including motility disturbances, mucoid enteropathy and diarrhoea
- Formulate a treatment plan for dental disease including overgrown teeth and traumatic injuries to teeth, treatment of abscesses and caries.

Speakers
Simon Girling
BVMS(Hons) DZooMed DipECZM (Zoo Health MmentCBiol MSB MRCVS
Sharon Redrobe
BVetMed CertLAS DZooMed MRCVS
Romain Pizzi
BVSc MSc DZooMed MACVSc(surg) FRES FRGS MRCVS
Richard Saunders
BVSc BSc CertZooMed DZooMed(Mammalian) MRCVS
Neil Forbes
BVetMed DipECZM(Avian) Cbiol MIBiol FRCVS
• Diagnose and treat respiratory tract disease including Pasteurellosis
• Understand conditions affecting the musculoskeletal and nervous systems including vestibular disease
• Investigate and treat reproductive and urinary tract diseases
• Describe common infectious diseases such as E cuniculi, myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease.

07 Biology, nutrition, husbandry and common diseases of mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, chinchillas, degus and gerbils

Date: Thu 19 June 2014
Speaker: Richard Saunders

• Describe the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of common skin diseases including ectoparasitic, bacterial, viral, fungal and endocrine disorders
• Understand diseases affecting the gastrointestinal tract including Tyzzer’s disease, wet tail, dental malocclusions and coccidiosis
• Approach the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory disorders and endocrine conditions
• Understand the diseases which affect the reproductive and urinary tracts
• Appreciate conditions which affect the CNS
• Understand sebaceous gland dermatitis, reproductive and adrenal gland disease affecting the skin and behavioural induced skin disease in gerbils
• Legislation concerning the care and use of relevant laboratory animals.

08 Avian medicine and surgery

Date: Fri 20 June 2014
Speaker: Neil Forbes

• Investigate and treat gastro-intestinal diseases
• Investigate and treat diseases of the upper and lower airways including the nares, sinuses, and infections such as Chlamydophilosis and Aspergillusosis.
• Approach beak and feather disease and feather plucking
• Understand urogenital tract disease including excessive egg laying, egg binding, cloacal disease and orchitis
• Manage trauma cases including fractures

09 Biology, nutrition, husbandry and diseases of ferrets and fish

Date: Thu 11 September 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling

• Diagnose and treat ectoparasitic, bacterial, fungal, viral and neoplastic skin disease in ferrets
• Diagnose and treat diseases affecting the gastrointestinal, respiratory and urogenital systems in ferrets
• Understand infectious diseases in ferrets such as distemper, tuberculosis, Aleutian disease and human influenza
• Assess disease patterns, environmental factors and fish husbandry and apply these to quarantine and disease prevention strategies
• Perform clinical examinations and have a knowledge of anaesthesia, medication and therapeutics with respect to fish
• Diagnose and treat common skin diseases, ocular disorders, respiratory and internal disease and have an understanding of the principles of fish surgery.

10 Biology, nutrition, husbandry and diseases of unusual mammalian pets, amphibians and invertebrates

Date: Fri 12 September 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling

• Understand the husbandry and diseases of small pet marsupials such as sugar gliders, wallabies and opossums
• Understand the husbandry and diseases of pet skunks
• Understand the husbandry and diseases of Procyonids such as the raccoon and kinkajou
• Understand the husbandry and diseases of Herpestids such as the dwarf mongoose and meerkat
• Understand the husbandry and conditions affecting pet amphibians
• Understand the husbandry and diseases of invertebrates

11 Reptile medicine and surgery
Date: Thu 30 October 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling
• Formulate an approach to the sick reptile including post hibernation anorexia and hypocalcaemic collapse
• Diagnose and treat dermatological conditions including dysecdysis, scale rot and abscesses and metabolic, nutritional and infectious bone and shell disorders
• Diagnose and treat common gastroenterological disorders including mouth rot, vomiting and regurgitation and liver disease

12 Wildlife medicine and surgery
Date: Fri 31 October 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling
• Explain the legislation relating to wild animals and welfare
• Formulate an approach to the restraint, anaesthesia and trauma management of wild birds and mammals
• Diagnose and manage common disorders of UK native wildlife
• Approach rehabilitation of wildlife
• Understand the zoonotic diseases which affect wildlife in the UK.

13 Primates
Date: Thu 11 December 2014
Speaker: Simon Girling
• Diagnose, treat and prevent ectoparasitic, bacterial, viral, fungal and neoplastic skin diseases
• Understand gastrointestinal disease including bacterial gastroenteritis, gastric dilation, diarrhoea and dental caries
• Appreciate diseases affecting the cardiorespiratory system
• Underestimate metabolic/nutritional bone disease, musculoskeletal and neurological disease, arthritis and limb fractures
• Investigate and treat infectious diseases
• Diagnose and treat diseases of the urogenital tract including endometrial, ovarian and mammary disease

14 Zoo animal medicine
Date: Fri 12 December 2014
Speaker: Sharon Redrobe
• Explain modern zoo legislation and management including Zoo Licensing Act 1981 and Balai regulations 92/65 as subsequently amended
• Approach the routine health-care management and common disease problems of zoo animals
• Restrain zoo animals
• Understand drug delivery systems, immobilisation and anaesthetic regimes.
Feline Practice Clinical Programme

GPCert Feline Practice  |  PgC Feline Veterinary Studies
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

With feline pet ownership overtaking dogs in the UK, vets are being presented with challenging feline cases every day.

This outstanding course taught by world class speakers offers an in depth look at the common and also more challenging feline issues through didactic, interactive and case-based sessions.

The modules will assist delegates in consolidating their knowledge of feline medicine and surgery and help them develop an informed clinical approach to the feline patient.

Some independent home based study is required to complete this course. Delegates will need to study the areas of pharmacy, dentistry and reproduction - full details of requirements will be given.

01 Clinical pathology
Date: Wed 29 January 2014
Speaker: Kathleen Tennant
• Have a thorough knowledge of sampling techniques, the limitations of technology and equipment and the factors that can generate artefacts or abnormalities.
• Interpret results and propose further investigations
• Understand the methodology involved in the generation of haematology, biochemistry and cytology profiles
• Have an awareness of the various diagnostic tests for endocrine and infectious diseases (viral, parasitic- including heartworm- and bacterial) techniques and interpretation
• Recall the cytology of haematic and non-haematic cell populations, both reactive and neoplastic, and have the ability to trace or plot maturation and degeneration pathways in blood, fluid and tissue smears.

02 Critical care and emergency case management
Date: Thu 30 January 2014
Speaker: Nicola Grint
• Perform triage, assess patients and prioritise cases and undertake emergency monitoring and stabilisation
• Understand the effects, clinical signs and treatment for common toxicities including insecticides, molluscicides, rodenticides, herbicides household preparations and plants
• Be familiar with critical therapeutics including fluid and electrolyte therapy, transfusion medicine cardiovascular and respiratory support, analgesia and CPR.

03 Dermatology
Date: Wed 26 March 2014
Speaker: Peter Forsythe
• Formulate a differential diagnosis, investigation plan (including laboratory investigations) for common dermatological
### 04 Anaesthesia and surgical principles

**Date:** Thu 27 March 2014  
**Speaker:** Guillaume Chanoit  
- Understand a range of parenteral and inhalational anaesthetic regimes  
- Understand the pharmacokinetics of different anaesthetics and monitoring techniques available  
- Apply knowledge gained to surgical asepsis and theatre protocol  
- Rationally utilise antibiotics in surgical patients  
- Be familiar with suture materials and patterns, surgical instruments and tissue handling  
- Plan surgery, apply haemostatic techniques and manage crises  
- Approach the management and reconstruction of wounds.

### 05 Cardiology

**Date:** Wed 23 April 2014  
**Speaker:** Kerry Simpson  
- Recognise the importance of a detailed history and clinical examination of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems in the diagnosis of cardiopulmonary diseases  
- Understand the common causes of heart disease in cats  
- Understand the central importance of blood pressure in the pathophysiology of cardiac disease in cats and know how to discriminate the causes of hypertension in this species  
- Recognise the crucial role of high quality imaging modalities (especially ultrasonography and radiology) in the differential diagnosis of feline cardiopulmonary diseases

### 06 Respiratory medicine

**Date:** Thu 24 April 2014  
**Speaker:** Kerry Simpson  
- Approach the common presentations of respiratory disease including nasal discharge, epistaxis, coughing, stridor, sneezing and reverse sneezing  
- Diagnose and treat upper respiratory tract diseases, both acute (infectious) and chronic (inflammatory or infectious or neoplastic in origin)  
- Formulate an approach to allergic lower respiratory tract disease including differential diagnoses, investigation and treatment of allergic airway disease, parasitic disease and pulmonary fibrosis  
- Understand pleural space disease including differential diagnoses, investigation and therapeutics.
Feline oesophagus, stomach, small and large intestine, liver and pancreas

• Understand the principles and uses of endoscopy and ultrasound imaging
• Describe the various tests used in the diagnosis of liver and pancreatic disease and the management options for the common hepatic medical disorders
• Understand the nutritional requirements for cats, the principles of nutrition and the nutritional management of disorders of the liver, pancreas and gastrointestinal tract.

07 Musculoskeletal disease
Date: Wed 11 June 2014
Speaker: James Grierson
• Perform an orthopaedic examination and be familiar with the presentation of osteoarthritis in the cat
• Understand the value of radiography, synoviocentesis, muscle and nerve biopsies
• Describe the common myopathies including their presentation, diagnosis and treatment
• Apply first aid techniques to fracture patients
• Explain the principles of orthopaedic surgery and the approach to the repair of common fractures.

08 Endocrinology
Date: Thu 12 June 2014
Speaker: Lucy Davison
• Define the clinical signs of feline endocrine diseases and understand their pathogenesis - including hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus, acromegaly, hyperaldosteronism and hyperadrenocorticism
• Understand the principles of key diagnostic tests and their application for the above feline endocrine diseases
• Understand the management of common feline endocrine diseases and know how to approach complications such as diabetic ketoacidosis and hyperosmolar syndrome.

09 Infectious diseases I
Date: Wed 23 July 2014
Speaker: Kerry Simpson
• Understand health and safety concerns and precautions relating to zoonoses
• Understand the legislation and regulations relating to infectious diseases
• Design and implement vaccination and preventative parasitic programmes
• Approach the pathophysiology, diagnosis and, where appropriate, treatment of common viral diseases including FeLV, FIV and FIP
• Diagnose and treat Haemoplasma infections.

10 Infectious diseases II
Date: Thu 24 July 2014
Speaker: Kerry Simpson
• Explain the diseases of hunting cats to include Toxoplasmosis, Pox virus, Mycobacterial disease and Salmonellosis
• Approach enteric infections of the cat including protozoal disease (Trichomonas foetus, Cryptosporidium, Giardia and Isospora) and bacterial/viral disease
• Understand fungal mycoses
• Control infectious and zoonotic disease in the home, clinic, shelters and cattery situations.

11 The liver, pancreas and gastrointestinal tract
Date: Wed 10 September 2014
Speaker: Tim Gruffydd Jones
• Know how to investigate and manage common medical conditions affecting the feline oesophagus, stomach, small and large intestine, liver and pancreas
• Understand the principles and uses of endoscopy and ultrasound imaging
• Describe the various tests used in the diagnosis of liver and pancreatic disease and the management options for the common hepatic medical disorders
• Understand the nutritional requirements for cats, the principles of nutrition and the nutritional management of disorders of the liver, pancreas and gastrointestinal tract.

12 The urinary tract
Date: Thu 11 September 2014
Speaker: Samantha Taylor
• Understand the causes of renal dysfunction, the presentation and diagnostic tests utilised in cats with clinical signs of renal disease (including acute/chronic renal insufficiency, glomerular disease, neoplasia and inherited diseases)
Understand the causes and emergency
treatment of acute renal failure.

Explain the pathophysiology of renal
dysfunction and the importance/significance
of hyperphosphataemia, anaemia,
proteinuria and hypertension.

Apply knowledge of the International Renal
Interest Society staging scheme for chronic
renal disease, to patient prognosis.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages
of the available treatments for CRI including
phosphate binders, ACE inhibitors and
dietary modification.

Recall the neuroanatomy of the lower urinary
tract and the differentiation of upper motor
nerve/ lower motor neuron defects.

Approach diseases of the lower urinary tract
including iFLUTD, urolithiasis, urinary tract
infections and neoplasia and understand
their differentiation, risk factors, treatment
and dietary management.

13 Ophthalmology
Date: Wed 22 October 2014
Speaker: John Mould

Understand the normal feline eye and use
readily available diagnostic equipment and
disposable in feline ophthalmic cases.

Recognise those ophthalmic conditions
which are unique to the cat or are particularly
important in this species.

Perform common surgical procedures
pertinent to feline ophthalmology.

Approach the medical management of
ophthalmic patients and know when to refer.

14 Neurology
Date: Thu 23 October 2014
Speaker: Laurent Garosi

Understand the clinical relevance of tumour
biology and be able to discuss.

The most common neoplasms of the major
organ systems.

Evaluate the evidence base to make rational
treatment decisions for feline cancer patients.

Understand the importance of biopsy
and staging in therapy decision making,
counselling and support.

Explain the function of bone marrow and
the differential diagnosis of anaemia,
haematopoietic disease and coagulopathies.

15 Oncology, lymphatic and
haematopoietic disease
Date: Wed 26 November 2014
Speaker: James Elliott

Understand the clinical relevance of tumour
biology and be able to discuss.

The most common neoplasms of the major
organ systems.

Evaluate the evidence base to make rational
treatment decisions for feline cancer patients.

Understand the importance of biopsy
and staging in therapy decision making,
counselling and support.

Self-study of the following modules will be
required: Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Dentistry
and Reproduction.
Course information

Course times
Registration is from 9.15am, course starts at 9.30am and finishes at 5.00pm on all modules.

Course fees
Whole course: £4,995.00 plus VAT (£5,994.00 in total)
Two back-to-back modules: £749.25 plus VAT (£899.10 in total) *
Individual modules: £392.46 plus VAT (£470.96 in total)

*Please note: The two day practical course (Modules 13 and 14) is priced at £899.00 plus VAT (£1,078.80 in total)

Course summary

This comprehensive and stimulating course is designed to be practically relevant for the small animal practitioner.

The course will provide delegates with a thorough understanding of the anatomy, development and physiology of the eye and will cover the full spectrum of ocular diseases seen in the domestic species. The principles of inherited ocular disease, ocular pharmacology and therapeutics, ocular pathology and ocular surgery will be discussed.

Through practical sessions and tutor demonstrations, delegates will gain an experience of the use of diagnostic equipment and some common surgical techniques. Wide use of interactive teaching and visual aids based on clinical cases will ensure that by the end of the course, delegates will be familiar with routine ophthalmic examinations and will be capable of diagnosing the commonly encountered ocular disorders.

01 Examination of the eye
Date: Mon 24 February 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming
- Use diagnostic ophthalmic instruments including focal illumination, the direct ophthalmoscope, slit lamp biomicroscope and indirect ophthalmoscope to perform a confident ocular examination.
- Undertake tonometry
- Undertake gonioscopy
- Understand more advanced and specialist techniques available for ophthalmic diagnosis including radiography, electroretinography, ultrasound, CT and MRI scans
- Understand diagnostic cytology, microbiology and biopsy sampling and appreciate the applications of the different methods of investigation
- Describe a systematic approach to the investigation of ophthalmology cases including accurate record keeping.

02 Anatomy and physiology of the eye, basic embryology and histology
Date: Tue 25 February 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming
- Understand basic ophthalmic embryology and post natal ocular development
- Describe comprehensively the anatomy of the eye
- Understand ocular physiology including the tear film, aqueous production, lens metabolism and retinal physiology
- Appreciate the normal and pathological appearance of histological samples including the significance of abnormalities detected
- Understand basic ocular immunology.

03 Ocular therapeutics and pharmacology
Date: Mon 17 March 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming
- Understand the principles of medicating the eye
Ophthalmology

04 The orbit and globe, eyelids and nictitans membranes
Date: Tue 18 March 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming

- Understand the anatomy and clinical conditions involving the orbit, globe, eyelids and nictitans membranes (third eyelids).
- Understand the presenting signs of and differential diagnoses for congenital and acquired orbital disease.
- Understand the effect of facial conformation on globe and eyelid position and its associated effects.

05 The conjunctiva and naso-lacrimal system: writing a case report
Date: Mon 14 April 2014
Speaker: Sally Turner

- Describe the anatomy of the conjunctiva and understand the aetiopathogenesis of conjunctival disease and its treatment.
- Describe the nasolacrimal system and abnormalities that can affect it.
- Understand secretory and excretory components, normal lacrimation and the components of the pre-corneal tear film.
- Appreciate kerato-conjunctivitis sicca.
- Understand problems associated with nasolacrimal drainage.
- Appreciate the approach to writing a case report, including case selection, literature searches and accurate referencing.

06 The cornea, sclera and episclera
Date: Tue 15 April 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming

- Describe normal corneal anatomy.
- Understand normal corneal healing and factors which can affect it.
- Understand how the cornea responds to insults.
- Understand the different causes of corneal ulceration and its treatment.
- Explain non ulcerative corneal disease.
- Appreciate the anatomy of the episclera and sclera and understand the pathology which can affect these.
07 The uveal tract and lens
Date: Mon 2 June 2014
Speaker: Sally Turner
- Recognise congenital and acquired defects involving the uveal tract and describe the presenting signs of anterior uveitis, posterior uveitis, panuveitis and the approach to diagnosis and treatment
- Approach non neurological abnormalities of the pupil
- Understand aqueous opacification
- Describe the anatomy and physiology of the normal lens
- Recognise lenticular disease and the range of congenital and acquired disease that can affect the lens and understand cataractogenesis
- Understand the approach to cataract surgery together with patient selection, aftercare and potential complications
- Appreciate primary and secondary lens luxation.

08 Glaucoma and neuro-ophthalmology
Date: Tue 3 June 2014
Speaker: Sally Turner
- Describe the production and drainage of aqueous humour and the pathophysiology of the normotensive globe
- Define glaucoma and understand the different types of primary and secondary glaucoma and species differences
- Appreciate treatment options for glaucoma
- Describe a logical approach to the investigation of neuro-ophthalmic problems and understand the relevant neurological pathways and the autonomic nerve supply
- Recognise normal and abnormal nystagmus
- Investigate and offer treatment options for blindness of central origin
- Understand disorders of ocular motility.

09 The retina, vitreous and optic nerve
Date: Tue 16 September 2014
Speaker: John Mould
- Understand the normal anatomy of the retina, species differences in retinal vascular patterns and the pathological changes which can occur and their manifestation
- Understand the process of chorioretinitis
- Appreciate both inherited and acquired retinopathies
- Understand the anatomy of the vitreous, congenital and acquired conditions and different types of vitreal degeneration
- Describe the anatomy and physiology of the normal optic nerve, explain congenital and acquired conditions of the optic nerve and understand the investigation of optic nerve disease.

10 Ocular neoplasia and ocular manifestations of systemic disease
Date: Wed 17 September 2014
Speaker: John Mould
- Recognise primary and secondary ocular neoplasia and explain its management
- Discuss the ocular manifestations of systemic disease including infectious, metabolic, nutritional, toxic immune mediated or vascular aetiologies.
- Understand the work up for suspected systemic disease.
- Appreciate treatment options for systemic disease in general practice.

11 Inherited ocular disease and case based discussion afternoon
Date: Mon 27 October 2014
Speaker: Sally Turner
- Understand inherited ocular disease, the principles of genetics and modes of inheritance and pedigree data analysis.
• Appreciate different methods of reducing such disease including eye testing schemes and genetic testing
• Explain the different conditions which affect different breeds of dog
• Clinically recognise congenital inherited conditions encountered such as collie eye anomaly, congenital cataract, retinal dysplasia, goniodysgenesis and persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous
• Clinically recognise non-congenital inherited conditions such as hereditary cataract, primary lens luxation, generalised progressive retinal atrophy and retinal pigment epithelial dystrophy
• Case based studies, delegates should be able to:
  • List differential diagnoses
  • Formulate investigation plans
  • Formulate treatment protocols for common ophthalmic problems.

12 Comparative ophthalmology
Date: Tue 28 October 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming
• Approach the ophthalmic examination of the horse, farm animals, rabbit, bird and reptile
• Have a basic understanding of the evolution of the eye
• Appreciate species differences in ocular anatomy
• Be familiar with common diseases seen in horses, food production animals (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs), rabbits, birds and reptiles
• Discuss the role of various species in ocular toxicology.

Modules 13 & 14
Practical techniques: Ophthalmic surgery

Day one
Mon 1 December 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming
• Recognise commonly used ophthalmic instruments and understand their use
• Use loupes and understand operating microscopes for surgical magnification
• Select appropriate suture material and needle designs
• Discuss pre and post-operative care of surgical patients and appropriate anaesthetic regimes
• Understand the basic surgical principles as they pertain to ophthalmic surgery.

Day two
Tue 2 December 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming
• Perform common surgical techniques for treating disease of the orbit, globe, eyelids, third eyelid, conjunctiva and cornea
• Perform reconstructive eyelid surgery
• Understand and perform different methods for enucleation
• Understand the principles of intraocular surgery.
Western Veterinary Acupuncture and Chronic Pain Management Clinical Programme

GPCert WVA&CPM | PgC WVA&CPM
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

This brand new course run in conjunction with the Western Veterinary Acupuncture Group is designed to enable veterinarians in practice to use acupuncture confidently, safely, and for a wide, but selected, range of clinical conditions.

This course is suitable for all veterinary surgeons with an interest in developing their knowledge and skills in the area of acupuncture and pain management.

At the end of the course the participants should be able to:

- Apply safe and competent needling
- Define the principles of point selection
- Palpate and understand the significance of myofacial trigger points
- State why there is a relatively small amount of clinical acupuncture research in the veterinary species
- Understanding chronic pain generally and in the context of veterinary acupuncture
- Understanding the current research and basis for the treatment of a wide range of clinical conditions

Western Veterinary Acupuncture Group (WVAG) can be found at www.wvag.co.uk.

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Course information

Course times
Registration is from 9.15am, course starts at 9.30am and finishes at 5.00pm on all modules.

Course fees
Whole course £3,995.00 plus VAT (£4,794.00 in total)
Individual modules £366.21 (£439.45 in total)
Two days back-to-back £699.13 plus VAT (£838.95 in total)

Speakers
Samantha Lindley BVSc MRCVS

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Important information

Course modules
Modules 1 - 4 comprise the Foundation Course. Delegates are required to complete the Foundation Course before progressing to modules 5 - 12. The modules of this course must be attended in sequence.

Delegates will be expected to practise needling techniques on each other as it is essential to experience acupuncture needling before treating patients.
01 Introduction to acupuncture and point selection
Date: Mon 17 February 2014
- Understand the history and nomenclature relating to acupuncture
- Understand trigger point theory in man and animals and find trigger points
- Undertake needling practice
- Recognise the signs of pain in animals
- Explain the principles of point selection and perform exercises relating to neck, shoulder and forelimb conditions.

02 The neurophysiology of acupuncture and clinical aspects of treatment: lower back and leg points
Date: Tue 18 February 2014
- Recall pain pathways and the anatomy of the nervous system and explain the principles of point selection
- Understand the suitability of patient selection and the clinical conditions which respond to acupuncture
- Understand contra-indications, safety aspects and potential side effects of acupuncture
- Plan patient treatments including the frequency and timing of treatments
- Understand needles and needling techniques
- Explain the principles of point selection and undertake exercises relating to the hindlimbs, the lumbar and lumbosacral regions.

03 Face and abdomen points and segmental acupuncture
Date: Mon 17 March 2014
- Explain point location on the face and abdomen and practise needle techniques
- Understand the use of acupuncture for functional non pathological disorders
- Understand the theory and practice of paraspinal needling
- Appreciate other approaches to segmental needling
- Treat visceral conditions with knowledge of the relevant points.

04 Introduction to electro-acupuncture: Practical considerations of running a veterinary acupuncture clinic
Date: Tue 18 March 2014
- Understand the theory of electro-acupuncture
- Consider the challenges of acupuncture research including the questions to ask and pitfalls to avoid
- Run a veterinary acupuncture clinic including awareness of practical and safety considerations, timings and pricing
- Understand the theory and research elements of acupuncture as it relates to dermatology, the dermatological conditions to which it applies and point selection exercises
- Quiz and case presentations.

05 Electroacupuncture
Date: Mon 19 May 2014
- State how electricity has been used historically in medicine
- Define the general principles of electroacupuncture
- Understand the electroacupuncture device
- Explain when and why to use electroacupuncture
- Understand safety considerations and potential side effects of acupuncture
- Apply the theory of electroacupuncture to a number of conditions.

All delegates will receive an electroacupuncture machine.
06 Review, refresh and update of modules
Date: Tue 20 May 2014
• Feel comfortable and confident with all the major concepts of modules 1-5
• Address any issues arising from using acupuncture in practice
• Have an awareness of some of the new research into musculoskeletal pain and the significance of these findings
• Understand the application of acupuncture to conditions affecting the hip, stifle, hock, shoulder, elbow and carpus
• Feel confident about anatomical points.

07 Acute and chronic Pain
Date: Mon 28 July 2014
• Explain the different manifestations of pain including behavioural problems
• Discuss the various causes and classifications of pain and the clues that help to distinguish them from each other.

08 Assessment of pain I
Date: Tue 29 July 2014
• Explain why assessing pain is not straightforward
• Apply the knowledge that behavioural changes are part of any assessment of pain
• Explain and apply some of the techniques used to assess pain and suffering
• Discuss the approaches to osteoarthritis.

09 Assessment of pain II
Date: Mon 15 September 2014
• Understand that treatment plans cannot be started without patient examination
• Explain the confounding factors in assessing pain problems
• Understand how acupuncture can be applied to patients with central sensitisation
• Appreciate the limitations of acupuncture with anxious/aroused animals
• Be familiar with current research in terms of the effect of sedation on acupuncture.

10 When acupuncture is not enough - what comes next?
Date: Tue 16 September 2014
• Appreciate the limitations of acupuncture
• Explain how different pharmacological treatments work
• Choose between different treatments
• Define the challenges of assessing physical therapies
• Be clear about how to devise a treatment plan

11 Beyond musculoskeletal pain I
Date: Tue 25 November 2014
• Appreciate the challenges of acupuncture research and be able to assess published research papers
• Understand the current research on a number of clinical conditions and how this applies practically to the clinical situation
• Be familiar with the placebo and nocebo effects
• Consider the practical applications of acupuncture to dermatological, psychological and visceral conditions

12 Beyond musculoskeletal pain II
Date: Wed 26 November 2014
• Understand the application of acupuncture to ocular conditions
• Understand the application of acupuncture to neurological conditions
• Review the techniques and conditions treated throughout the course.
Animal Behaviour

GPCert Animal Behaviour
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

Cases showing inappropriate behaviour are commonly seen in veterinary practice and this is an area that is of great interest to many veterinary nurses.

This fascinating course will lead delegates through the common causes, diagnostic methods and treatment regimes of the various types of behavioural problems encountered in general practice.

This programme includes comprehensive course notes for each module. Refreshments are available throughout the day and lunch is included on all modules.

Delegates wishing to complete the General Practitioner Certificate examination will be required to attend all 12 taught modules. These modules can be completed in one year or delegates can extend the programme over two or three years.

01 Introduction, early principles and fundamentals I
Date: Wed 11 December 2013
- Have gained understanding of the variety of approaches used in behavioural medicine
- Understand that behavioural knowledge can be used to their patient’s advantage in situations other than primary behavioural disorders
- Grasped that, when in doubt, referring back to the principle of “first do no harm” will help keep patients and the public safe
- Understand normal canine and feline behaviour
- Be able to apply some basic principles and treatments.

02 Introduction, early principles and fundamentals II
Date: Thu 12 December 2013
- Understand and have ideas of how to approach behavioural problems in their own practice
- Understand the variety of causes of behavioural problems
- Understand how the process of determining the causes will be approached in this course
- Understand how to distinguish between a clinical cause and a social/environmental cause of a behavioural problem
- Understand how to take a behavioural history and what to do with the information.

Please note this course starts on 11th December 2013
03 & 04
Canine and feline aggression problems: Causes and principles; specific approaches I & II
Date: Wed 19 & Thu 20 February 2014
• Understand that aggression is a normal part of the behavioural repertoire, although it may also be a manifestation of clinical problems
• Understand the general principles of how to approach it
• Be familiar with safety techniques and approaches
• Have grasped the principles of how to deal with aggression in specific contexts.

05 & 06
Canine and feline fear and anxiety problems: causes and principles; specific approaches; compulsive disorders I & II
Date: Wed 9 & Thu 10 April 2014
• Be able to understand the distinction between fear, anxiety and phobia
• Understand the general principles of how these problems are approached
• Be able to adapt their knowledge to deal with individual presentations of fear, anxiety and phobia
• Be able to grasp the potential complexity of assessing and dealing with compulsive disorders in the dog and cat and apply some principles to individual cases.

07 When behavioural therapy is not enough/when owners ask for more: pharmacological interventions; complementary and alternative (CAM) approaches
Date: Wed 21 May 2014
• Understand the principles of using behaviour modifying drugs and why only a very few patients will require them
• Understand how and when to use the different available medications
• Understand the complexities of the request for and the use of CAM
• Have reviewed, revised and resolved any queries arising from the previous eight modules.
08 Case based practice
Date: Thu 22 May 2014
- Revision and review
- Progress of cases
- Working through case based problems
- Where to go from here
- Support and support networks.

09 Pain as a cause of behavioural problems: recognize, assess and treat
Date: Wed 25 June 2014
- Understand how acute pain and chronic pain are different from each other
- Understand the physiology and experience of pain
- Understand why pain can manifest as behavioural problems
- Understand the various causes and classifications of pain and the clues that help to distinguish them from each other.

10 Pain as a cause of behavioural problems: recognize, assess and treat
Date: Thu 26 June 2014
- Understand why assessing pain is not straightforward
- Understand that behavioural changes are part of any assessment of pain
- Understand some of the techniques used to assess pain and suffering
- Have learned how to devise treatment plans for individuals.

11 & 12 Clinical causes of behavioural problems: Update and approaches
Date: Wed 30 & Thu 31 July 2014
- Testosterone related challenges
- Endocrine problems

Behavioural manifestations of, approaches to and case examples of:
- Neurological disease, including complex partial seizure; Chiari synringomyelia; space occupying lesions
- Iatrogenic
- Canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD)
- Miscellaneous

Behavioural approaches to solving clinical problems:
- Delivering treatments to difficult/fearful patients
- Desensitizing fearful patients to the practice
- The aggressive patient – potential pitfalls with tackling the owner and approaching the problem

Case review; summary and final forum.
Endoscopy and Endosurgery Clinical Programme

GPCert Endoscopy and Endosurgery

Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

Endoscopy as an aid to diagnosis coupled with endosurgery as an alternative to more conventional surgical treatments are rapidly growing areas of veterinary practice.

New veterinary applications, often following human advances, can be extremely useful in both the investigation and treatment of disease in small and large animals. Having experienced endoscopic procedures first hand, clients often have a good knowledge of these techniques and expect them to be available to their pets.

Reliable and increasingly affordable equipment designed specifically for veterinary applications make the procedures safer and in many cases within the abilities of the general practitioner.

This very practical 12 module programme will provide delegates with a thorough grounding in both theory and hands-on skills needed to start introducing endoscopy into their practice. Each module will combine the very latest in knowledge with the opportunity to practise new skills in a safe environment. Comprehensive training will enhance confidence and provide an integrated learning experience. Delegates will also have the opportunity to study for a postgraduate qualification awarded by the European School Of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS): the General Practitioner Certificate in Endoscopy and Endosurgery. This is intended to provide a benchmarked and achievable qualification across Europe for veterinary surgeons with a special interest in this subject.

The modules will assist delegates in developing their knowledge of endoscopy and endosurgery and help them utilise this diagnostic and therapeutic aid as a valuable practical skill for everyday work.

01 Introduction to endoscopy and endosurgery: Instrumentation

Date: Tue 4 March 2014
Speaker: Philip Lhermette

- Understand the history and current applications of endoscopy in human surgery and relate this to current veterinary practice
- Understand endoscopic instrumentation including rigid and flexible endoscopes
- Discuss the application of accessory instrumentation and electrosurgery for rigid and flexible endoscopy
- Discuss the incorporation of endoscopy into a veterinary practice
- Understand how to clean and care for the equipment
- Understand the use and application of electrosurgery to minimally invasive techniques.
02 Flexible endoscopy: Basic techniques and lower GI tract  
Date: Wed 5 March 2014  
Speaker: Edward J. Hall  
- Discuss the indications for lower gastrointestinal endoscopy  
- Understand the possible complications of lower gastrointestinal endoscopy  
- Understand patient preparation and general endoscopic technique  
- Understand normal endoscopic appearance of ileum, colon, caecum and rectum  
- Practise techniques using anatomical models.

03 Flexible endoscopy - upper Gastrointestinal Tract  
Date: Tue 29 April 2014  
Speaker: Edward J. Hall  
- Discuss the indications for upper gastrointestinal endoscopy  
- Understand the possible complications of upper gastrointestinal endoscopy  
- Understand patient preparation and general endoscopic technique  
- Understand normal endoscopic appearance of oesophagus, stomach and duodenum  
- Understand biopsy techniques  
- Practise techniques using anatomical models.

04 Flexible endoscopy: Respiratory tract and therapeutic techniques  
Date: Wed 30 April 2014  
Speaker: Edward J. Hall  
- Discuss the indications for respiratory tract endoscopy and understand the possible complications  
- Understand patient preparation and general endoscopic technique for examination of upper and lower respiratory tracts  
- Understand normal endoscopic appearance of nasal cavity, larynx, trachea and bronchi  
- Understand sample collection techniques  
- Understand foreign body retrieval and feeding tube placement techniques  
- Practise techniques using anatomical models.

05 Rigid endoscopy: Basic principles rhinoscopy and other ‘oscopies’  
Date: Tue 12 August 2014  
Speaker: Philip Lhermette  
- Discuss the indications for rhinoscopy and other ‘oscopies’  
- Understand normal endoscopic appearance of nasal cavity, larynx, trachea and bronchi  
- Understand sample collection techniques  
- Practise techniques using anatomical models.

06 Rigid endoscopy: Otoendoscopy, urethrocystoscopy and vaginoscopy  
Date: Wed 13 August 2014  
Speaker: Philip Lhermette  
- Discuss the indications for otoendoscopy, urethrocystoscopy and vaginoscopy  
- Understand the possible complications of the above examinations  
- Understand patient preparation and general endoscopic techniques for the above examinations in male and female dogs and cats  
- Understand normal endoscopic appearance of the ear, vagina, urethra and bladder  
- Understand biopsy and sampling techniques and treatment of some common conditions  
- Practise techniques in a wet-lab environment.
07 Rigid endoscopy: Laparoscopy  
**Date:** Tue 23 September 2014  
**Speaker:** Philip Lhermette  
- Discuss the indications for laparoscopy and understand the possible complications.  
- Understand patient preparation and general endoscopic technique for laparoscopy.  
- Understand normal endoscopic appearance of the abdominal cavity and its organs.  
- Understand organ biopsy techniques.  
- Practise techniques in a wet-lab environment.

08 Rigid endoscopy: Ovariectomy and ovariohysterectomy  
**Date:** Wed 24 September 2014  
**Speaker:** Philip Lhermette  
- Review the instrumentation necessary for sterilisation surgeries.  
- Understand the techniques and possible complications of laparoscopic sterilisation procedures.

09 Arthroscopy I  
**Date:** Tue 4 November 2014  
**Speaker:** Patrick Ridge  
- Review the instrumentation necessary for arthroscopic procedures.  
- Discuss common joint pathology.  
- Understand the indications for arthroscopy.  
- Understand patient preparation and the creation of portals for elbow, shoulder and stifle arthroscopy.  
- Practise the above techniques in a wet-lab environment.

10 Arthroscopy II  
**Date:** Wed 5 November 2014  
**Speaker:** Patrick Ridge  
- Perform an arthroscopic examination of the elbow, shoulder and stifle joints.  
- Perform simple arthroscopic surgery of the elbow and shoulder.  
- Understand the possible complications of the above procedures.  
- Practise the above techniques in a wet-lab environment.

11 Rigid endoscopy: Thoracoscopy  
**Date:** Tue 6 January 2015  
**Speaker:** Sally Turner  
- Review the instrumentation necessary for thoracoscopy procedures.  
- Understand the indications for diagnostic thoracoscopy.  
- Understand the approaches to the thoracic cavity – telescope portals.

12 An introduction to laser endosurgery  
**Date:** Wed 7 January 2015  
**Speaker:** Philip Lhermette  
- Understand the techniques for an exploratory thoracoscopy, lung and lymph node biopsies and pericardectomy.  
- Understand the possible complications of thoracoscopy.  
- Practise some of the above techniques in a wet-lab environment.  
- Review the equipment available for laser surgery in animals.  
- Discuss the use of lasers in conjunction with endoscopy.  
- Understand how to perform laser debulking of tumours in the GI tract, nose and bladder plus resection of ectopic ureters.  
- Understand the possible complications of laser surgery.  
- Practise some of the above techniques in a wet-lab environment.
Forensics and Law

GPCert Forensics and Law
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course summary

The course enables veterinary surgeons to become familiar with the application of forensic techniques to veterinary medicine.

This marriage of “Vet” and “CSI” allows veterinary surgeons to be able to utilise their existing knowledge and skills in veterinary medicine, add new forensic methods and learn a new set of skills.

The field of Veterinary Forensics is in its infancy and is not, as some believe, a new description of veterinary pathology. The course includes teaching in ballistics, chemical analysis, document examination, bioterrorism, examination of hair and feathers, applications of DNA to veterinary medicine, investigation of interspecies sexual assault and bite marks. The practical component familiarises candidates with how to take charge at a crime scene and collect and store evidence, analyse and interpret that evidence and then be able to write a report and stand up to cross-examination in a court room.

**01 Course introduction & anti terrorism**
Date: Thu 27 March 2014
Speaker: David Bailey
- Appreciate that a role exists for the provision of trained Veterinary Experts in the resolution of legal disputes
- Understand how this role can be filled in a particular area of expertise of Veterinary Science
- Develop skills to analyse argument
- Understand what an expert witness is and can do, and more importantly, cannot do.
- Identify and explain the nature of the threat from terrorism that involves animals and animal derivatives.
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of individuals, when confronted with an incident, or suspected case, of terrorism involving animals and animal derivatives.
- Understand the role of resilience planning and business continuity preparation.

**02 Blood and blood pattern analysis**
Date: Fri 28 March 2014
Speaker: David Bailey
- Appreciate the limitations and value of blood stain pattern analysis to a crime scene
- Understand the various tests available that can be used to presumptively determine the species of origin of blood at a crime scene
- Be able to understand and explain the distinction between cuts inflicted pre and post mortem
- Develop practical crime scene photography techniques and understand the use of staining and lighting to enhance the evidential value of photographs
- Be aware of patterns and criteria involved around the identification of non accidental wounds in animals.
03 & 04 Law I & II
Date: Thu 24 & Fri 25 April 2014
Speakers: David Bailey & Debbie Rook
- Appreciate the law covering animals is not just about welfare and pathology
- Understand that the resolution of legal disputes involving animals and their derivatives requires a grasp of the legal concepts and issues involved and that these may be interpreted differently depending upon the jurisdiction involved
- Develop an awareness of the foundation concepts of a law and how as the level and scope of law increases from local level to international level that decisions are based less on Forensic science and are more politically motivated
- Be able to debate issues relating to local and international animal law on a competent and confident level
- Understand the requirements for the seizing of goods from a crime scene and chain of custody procedures.

05 Hair
Date: Thu 22 May 2014
Speaker: Claire Gwinnett
- Appreciate the wide range of hair evidence that can be left at a crime scene and understand the key principles by which this evidence can be characterised and compared with control samples, reference materials and databases
- Develop practical skills, especially in microscopy, in the analysis of hairs.

06 DNA
Date: Fri 23 May 2014
Speaker: Laura Walton
- Understand the tools available for analysing DNA evidence in relation to wildlife crimes and animal-based investigations
- Gain an awareness of the benefits and limitations of this type of analysis, and its purpose in both wildlife crime as well as the wider context of veterinary applications.

07 Bitemarks and bestiality
Date: Thu 3 July 2014
Speaker: David Bailey
Specific areas to be covered:
- Investigating bite marks- an approach to identifying the biter
- Bestiality - background and historical approach
- Bestiality - how to perform an examination of an animal that has been the subject of an interspecies sexual act
- Case notes - examples of bite marks and bestiality reports.

08 Evidence collection and gathering
Date: Fri 4 July 2014
Speaker: David Bailey
- Manage and record a simulated crime scene
- Gather forensic evidence from a simulated crime scene using appropriate methods
- Package the evidence appropriately and record the evidence from a simulated crime scene with continuity
- Store the evidence in appropriate conditions to avoid degradation and contamination.

Practical element
Using a simulated crime scene delegates will:
- Give any emergency care where necessary
- Secure and protect the scene and liaise with other agencies present
- Do a primary survey including a walk through, recording findings
- Identify & evaluate evidence
- Make appropriate sketches, take appropriate photographs
- Carry out a crime scene search, physical evidence collection and recording/continuity
- Final survey
- Release of scene
- Describe how the evidence will be transported and stored to maintain the chain of evidence

Speakers
David Bailey
BVSc MSc (Forensic science) MRCVS
Debbie Rook
LLB(Hons) LLM
Claire Gwinnett
PhD PgDipHE PGCRM PGCHPE FHEA BSc(Hons)
Laura Walton
MSc BSc(Hons)
Nikolaos Kalantzis
Ptyxio BSc(Physics) MSc (Questioned documents) PgD (Forensic Science) MFSSoc FSSocDip
09 & 10 Firearms and ballistics I & II
Date: Thu 28 & Fri 29 August 2014
Speaker: David Bailey
• Apply theoretical learning to practical components of forensic practice through real, live, historical and active case studies presented in class
• Understand the key aspects of a report and the skills of report writing and the weakness’s that vets have in this area
• Understand and explain the concepts of external, internal and wound ballistics to veterinary medicine
• Understand the basic concepts of firearms law in the UK.
Please note: Day two will be a practical session at Cranfield Defence Academy, Nr Swindon.

11 Document examination
Date: Thu 9 October 2014
Speakers: Nikolaos Kalantzis & David Bailey
• Appreciate the wide range of examinations that can be carried out by document examiners
• Understand the key principles by which document evidence can be processed and evaluation of possible results in view of specific work case scenarios
• Learn how to preserve document evidence found on a crime scene. Evaluate which document evidence might provide useful results through specialist evaluation
• Develop practical skills, and first-hand experience of the analysis of handwriting and documents.

12 Court room and media skills
Date: Fri 10 October 2014
Speaker: David Bailey
• Appreciate the wide range of different skill sets involved in a court room setting
• Develop a confident understanding of court room procedures
• Understand that the skill sets required for each discipline have comparable and contrasting qualities.

13 Forensic reasoning
Date: Thu 13 November 2014
Speakers: Cranfield Defence Academy
• Understand Bayes theorem
• Develop practical skills in using this theorem to reports and court room testimony
• Understand the limitations of this type of reasoning in court.

14 Toxicology and chemical analysis
Date: Fri 14 November 2014
Speakers: David Bailey
• Performance enhancers, doping agents and adulterants
• Detection of banned substances
• Methods of evidence analysis and interpretation
• Routes of uptake and elimination of drugs.

Harriet Brooks
BVetMed PhD MRCVS
Forensics - Ballistics sessions
My own view (as someone without much experience of guns, shooting or ballistics): This was a fantastic module and a great experience.

The organisers were very knowledgable, well-informed, well organised and could barely have been more helpful or hospitable. The facilities were excellent (and the food and other refreshments generous and very good!).

This was a fantastic module and a great experience.

I am hoping to find a way to take this subject further as I have certainly been inspired by the last two days!
Small Animal Practice Clinical Programme

GPCert Small Animal Practice
Venue: Swindon, Wiltshire

Course information

Course times
Registration is from 9.15am, course starts at 9.30am and finishes at 5.00pm on all modules except module 5. This will run 2pm – 8pm. Module 5 registration and coffee 1.45, course starts 2pm and finishes 8pm

Course fees
Whole course: £6,049.00 plus VAT (£7,258.80 in total)
Two back-to-back modules: £793.93 plus VAT (£952.72 in total)*
Individual modules: £415.87 plus VAT (£499.04 in total)

Please note: Modules 3 and 4 (Soft Tissue Surgery two-day practical) and modules 12 and 13 (Orthopaedics two-day practical) have practical content. Each pair of days is charged at £899.00 plus VAT (£1,078.80 in total).

Course summary

This course will provide delegates with a broad and comprehensive overview of small animal practice and will ensure that they are brought fully up to date with recent advances in key clinical areas.

The 16 module course has a high practical content - five of the modules have been designed to give delegates hands-on practical experience in areas such as soft tissue surgery, orthopaedic surgery and ultrasonography.

Who should be attending this training programme?
All veterinary surgeons looking for a general update in the subject. The course will also suit those returning to practice after a career break, those moving into small animal practice and those starting a career in this country.

01 Clinical pathology and laboratory diagnosis
Date: Wed 5 March 2014
Speaker: Kathleen Tennant
• Discuss the different sampling techniques and sample processing, and identify factors that may affect them
• Describe the investigative approach to haematological abnormalities
• Discuss the clinical pathology associated with hepatobiliary and renal disease, selected electrolyte and endocrine abnormalities
• Use the developed knowledge to interpret laboratory data from clinical patients
• Basic cytology – getting the best results.

02 Infectious diseases and preventative healthcare
Date: Wed 2 April 2014
Speaker: Karen Coyne
• Discuss the common bacterial, viral and fungal diseases encountered in small animal practice
• Discuss their implications for zoonosis, health and safety concerns and suitable precautions
• Design effective vaccination and preventative parasitic regimes.

03 & 04 Surgical techniques of soft tissue surgery*
Date: Tue 13 & Wed 14 May 2014
Speaker: Guillaume Chanoit
Day one
• Understand the principles of surgical asepsis and how these affect procedures and protocols in the operating theatre
• Outline a rational approach to the use of antibiotics in practice
• Understand the advantages and disadvantages of the available suture materials
• Understand the principles of surgical planning and crisis management

Day Two
• Understand basic skin wound closure techniques
• Understand and perform simple subdermal plexus flaps
• Understand and perform simple skin grafting techniques
• Perform practical intestinal suturing skills for biopsy, enterotomy and enterectomy.

Some delegates may wish to learn how to perform axial pattern flaps and omental flaps.

05 Dermatology
Date: Wed 4 June 2014
Please note this module will take place between 2.00pm-8.00pm
Speaker: David Shearer
• Understand the steps involved in dermatologic examination in cats and dogs
• Describe dermatologic manifestations of systemic disease

06 Rabbit and exotic animal medicine and surgery
Date: Wed 9 July 2014
Speaker: Richard Saunders
• Describe the husbandry, handling and nutrition of exotic animals
• Recognise common medical conditions affecting rabbits, rodents and cage birds
• Discuss diagnostic procedures and therapeutics in exotic animals, including anaesthesia and common surgical techniques.

07 Radiology
Date: Tue 9 September 2014
Speaker: Tim Trevail
• The principles of radiography and radiology
• Radiation protection
• The use of common contrast radiography techniques
• Practical film-reading techniques.

08 Ultrasound*
Date: Wed 10 September 2014
Speaker: Tim Trevail
• Understand the principles of ultrasound
• Know how to set up an ultrasound machine and optimise the image
• Develop practical skills in scanning the liver, spleen and reproductive tract
• Be familiar with the normal ultrasonographic appearance of the main abdominal organs and recognise common pathological changes.
09 Gastroenterology
Date: Wed 8 October 2014
Speaker: Edward J. Hall
• Understand and discuss the basic pathophysiology of vomiting and diarrhoea in the dog and the cat
• Understand and discuss the diagnostic approach to the common causes of vomiting and diarrhoea in the dog and the cat
• Understand and discuss the different treatment and management options for the common causes of vomiting and diarrhoea in the dog and the cat.

10 Endocrinology
Date: Wed 5 November 2014
Speaker: Mike Herrtage
• Develop a diagnostic approach to the polyuric/polydipsic patient
• Describe the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid diseases
• Describe the diagnosis and treatment of adrenal diseases
• Describe the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic diseases.

11 Ophthalmology
Date: Wed 3 December 2014
Speaker: Lorraine Fleming
• Perform common practical examination techniques
• Describe the medical and surgical management of common ocular conditions
• Recognise the ocular manifestations of systemic diseases
• Discuss current ocular therapeutics.

12 & 13 Orthopaedics: practical course*
Date: Tue 20 & Wed 21 January 2015
Speaker: Hannes Bergmann
Day one
• Understand the principles of fracture planning
• Perform the surgical approaches to common fractures - practical skills
• Fracture repair using pins, wires, screws and plates – practical skills.

Day two
• Manage cases of hip and elbow dysplasia
• Understand the management of osteochondrosis
• Perform an excision arthroplasty – practical skills
• Perform a lateral retinacular suture repair in a cranial cruciate ligament deficient stifle – practical skills
• Surgically correct medial patellar luxations – practical skills.
I had returned to practice part time after maternity leave and was very keen to do a structured modular course that was a broad overview of the things I encounter as a general practitioner. The course was very accessible in terms of the time I needed to invest and enabled me to feel confident returning to work after a career break. By having the exam at the end of the course I definitely achieved so much more, because I was committed to studying the modules in far greater depth than just what was taught.

Hannah Jack BVSc BSc GPCert SAP MRCVS
**What are my options?**

1. Attend individual or paired modules of your choice on any of these courses

2. Attend modules over a period of up to 3 years, register with ESVPS and HAU and sit the GPCert and gain 40 academic credits

3. Register with HAU for the Advanced Practitioner module, gain 20 further academic credits and a Postgraduate Certificate.

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**About our courses**

*Your route to a PgC/PgD/MSc Advanced Veterinary Practice Sciences*

The diagram below shows how you can use the Postgraduate Certificate towards higher academic qualifications.

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### Cumulative Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timescale (Years)</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>PgC (approved)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>PgC (approved), PgC (new)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### PgC Advanced Veterinary Practice Sciences

- Small Animal Surgery 60 credits level 7
- Small Animal Medicine 60 credits level 7
- Feline Veterinary Studies 40 credits level 7
- Small Animal Ophthalmology 40 credits level 7
- Exotic Animal Studies 40 credits level 7
- Small Animal Emergency Medicine & Surgery 40 credits level 7
- Western Veterinary Acupuncture and Chronic Pain Management 40 credits level 7
- Small Animal Cardiology 40 credits level 7
- Small Animal Diagnostic Imaging 40 credits level 7

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### PgD Advanced Veterinary Practice Sciences

- One veterinary discipline not yet studied At least 40 credits, level 7
- B7001 Research Information Skills 15 credits, level 7
- PCM10 Advanced Research Methods 15 credits, level 7

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### MSc Advanced Veterinary Practice Sciences

- R7001 Research Project
Syllabus and learning

Objectives
At the beginning of the course delegates receive a course syllabus and specific learning objectives for all of the taught sessions. Delegates will be able to carry out self-reflection based on the course materials they have received. The taught course will cover key areas of the syllabus but in order to achieve success in the examination candidates will be required to undertake their own study in accordance with the syllabus and learning objectives.

Ancillary materials
Delegates are given a list of recommended texts to support their study. Each module has pre and post module self-evaluation components which are completed online. These components are compulsory for exam candidates. Delegates will have access to an online forum where they can share case discussions.

Examinations
Important information: There is no requirement for delegates on these courses to sit the examinations. Delegates may simply choose to undertake the taught programme in the knowledge that it will help them improve their skills and expertise. For this reason delegates will not be required to enrol for the relevant examination until 30th April 2014. This allows delegates the opportunity to fully understand what is involved before they commit to the examination.

A representative from ESVPS will talk to each group prior to the final examination enrolment date. Fees are structured in two parts, with payment to Improve for the course itself and a separate payment to ESVPS for the examination. Candidates enrolling on the examinations will be required to complete one 2,500 word case report and five 500-1000 word case studies. Full details will be made available from ESVPS.

For courses where there are practical components delegates will receive an assessment during the final practical day and are expected to provide evidence of self-reflection following the assessment.

Candidates will also be required to sit a final written examination comprising multiple choice questions taken from the whole syllabus. The exam takes place each November.

The award of Postgraduate Certificate is gained after successful completion of the GPCert examination and the Advanced Practitioner module delivered by Harper Adams University. Full details are available on request.

Quality control
The Academic Board of ESVPS is responsible for controlling standards across both the syllabus and other components of the courses which lead to GPCerts. It ensures that course content fulfils the criteria for an accredited course and also monitors the examination systems and processes. Similarly the GPCert examinations are the responsibility of ESVPS and any questions about them should be directed to ESVPS.

The rigorous validation process undertaken by Harper Adams University and their on-going involvement in the modular programmes and examinations ensures that both the teaching elements and the examination processes meet the higher education academic standards.
Frequently asked questions

I don’t know if I can commit to attending all the modules in one year. Can I spread it over more than one year?
Yes you can! We try to be as flexible as possible to fit with budget and timetables so with this in mind delegates now have up to three years to complete the programmes and sit the exam. If you would like to spread the course over a period of time call us on 01793 759159 to discuss all the possibilities.

Have you got any payment options?
If you register for the whole course you will pay less than if you book onto individual or paired modules. If you wish to spread the cost we offer a direct debit plan to UK delegates enabling payment to be spread over 12 monthly installments. A fee of £150 plus VAT is charged for this service. Delegates from Eire have the option of paying by installment via monthly credit card or electronic bank transfer.

I’m not sure if I want to do the exam when do you need to know?
ESVPS will let you settle into the course before you decide whether to sit the GPCert exam. You have until 30th April 2014 to enrol.

How do I gain the Postgraduate Certificate?
When you start the course you will be asked to keep a case diary between January and April 2014 which demonstrates the type and volume of clinical cases you are seeing in practice. This is a pre-requisite to registration and will be submitted with your exam registration documents at the end of April 2014.
You need to attend all taught and practical modules of your chosen clinical programme and register with Harper Adams University to take the Advanced Practitioner module. It is anticipated that delegates will spend the first year of the programme attending the taught clinical programme and the second year working on their Advanced Practitioner module and sit the GPCert exam in November 2015. You can spread your attendance on the taught programme over more than one year.

What does the Advanced Practitioner module involve?
This module is delivered by Harper Adams University. It is a combination of work based, online and attendance components aimed at developing high level problem solving skills while advancing specific technical knowledge. Delegates will choose their area of interest and will spend time refining their advanced practical and technical skills and assessing the value of these skills. Case studies and examples from practice will form a central part of this.

How is the Advanced Practitioner module assessed?
By a portfolio which will contain a reflective review of learning considering how new insights will impact on future practice. Full guidance is given by Harper Adams University on this module and how to present the portfolio.

Will I have to pay for anything on top of the course fees?
If you decide to sit the GPCert exam you will need to pay ESVPS the exam fee in spring 2014. If you decide to register with Harper Adams University to do the Advanced Practitioner module these fees should be paid to Harper Adams University at the same time as the exam fee.

Delegates will be given detailed information about the examination structure during the early part of the course. If delegates wish to sit the ESVPS GPCert examination, the examination fee of £495.00 (no VAT) and the accreditation fee of £380.00 (no VAT) is payable by April 30th 2014.

For delegates undertaking the Advanced Practitioner module with Harper Adams University, which in conjunction with the GPCert, secures the award of Postgraduate Certificate, the total cost of £1250.00 (no VAT) is payable to Harper Adams University by 30th April 2014. If you return at a later date, after completing the GPCert, and then decide to top up to PgC the cost will be £1450.00 (no VAT).

Other than these it is entirely up to you how much you spend on learning resources. We provide course information online, course notes for the taught area of the syllabus and additional online learning resources. Every course is accompanied by a recommended reading list and via our website you can access our online shop which provides great discounts from key publishers.
Registration form

Cardiology | Diagnostic Imaging | Emergency Medicine & Surgery | Exotic Animal Practice
Feline Practice | Ophthalmology | Western Veterinary Acupuncture and Chronic Pain Management
Animal Behaviour | Endoscopy and Endosurgery | Small Animal Practice | Forensics & Law

Protexin CPD vouchers Please write the serial number here:

Payment by card
To make a credit or debit card payment (Mastercard, Visa or Maestro only)
please phone: (01793) 759159 or book online and pay over a secure server at www.improvecpd.com.
We also accept payment by BACS and offer direct debit payment plans. Please contact the Improve office on 01793 759159 for all account information.
There is a charge of £150 plus VAT for using the direct debit service.

Payment by cheque / bankers draft
Please find enclosed a cheque/Bankers Draft for:

Vegetarian meal required:
Yes  No

Registration
Course title:
Venue:
Signature:

Payment details

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Please find enclosed a cheque/Bankers Draft for:

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Terms and conditions
1. On registering for a whole course the delegate agrees to pay the registration fee in full unless a direct debit plan has been agreed in writing. 2. If for any reason (such as inadequate numbers of registrants) a course is not confirmed to run, then any registration fees will be refunded in full by Improve International Limited (“Improve International”). However, other expenses incurred by delegates (such as any travel expenses) shall not be refunded. All cancellations by delegates of courses or of individual modules must be made in writing. In relation to cancellation: 20% of the total registration fee paid will be withheld in respect of cancellations giving not less than 28 days notice: No refunds shall be made in respect of cancellations giving less than 28 days notice. If cancelling from individual modules a fee of £50.00 plus VAT (Total £60.00) may be payable in respect of cancellations giving less than 14 days notice. This cancellation fee is payable prior to attending the missed module at another date in the future. No-refunds shall be made in respect to missed or cancelled modules. 3. Improve’s main venues are covered by Third Party Liability insurance; however delegates should ensure that they themselves have appropriate insurances in place; particularly if the course involves visits to other centres/facilities, for example for practical sessions. 4. Improve reserves the right, under exceptional circumstances, to alter the speakers, venues or dates of courses. Under such circumstances, Improve will give maximum possible notice to delegates. 5. Delegates must inform Improve in writing, allowing 14 days notice if they cannot attend or wish to change venue for a particular module. Failure to do so may result in a nominal fee being charged to cover the additional venue costs incurred. 6. Attendance of a missed module is subject to the receipt of a written request and that a similar, alternative module is available within the following 12-month period. Full terms and conditions can be found on the website.