



Improve 
International
www.improvecpd.com

2013-2015 prospectus

Postgraduate Certificates

60 academic credits at Masters level

Modular Programmes

PgC Small Animal Medicine GPCert(SAM)

PgC Small Animal Surgery GPCert(SAS)

In association with

 **ESVPS**
European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies


Harper Adams
University

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Introduction



We are pleased to provide full details of our flagship two-year modular programmes in small animal medicine and small animal surgery, starting in October 2013.

We are now entering our fifteenth year and since 1998, we have run these programmes successfully in 13 different European countries, with literally 1000's of vets benefitting from this unique system of veterinary learning.

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. The small animal medicine programme will cover all of the major body-systems over a two-year period, whilst the small animal surgery programme divides into a soft-tissue component in year one and an orthopaedic/spinal component in year two.

In addition there are valuable online learning resources including webinars, access to scientific articles, course notes library and subject forums.

Both of these programmes will help you to develop your professional careers, enabling you to be become more competent and confident in your daily work. They represent excellent value for money as well, with many past delegates reporting increased practice turnover as a result of applying new skills learnt during the sessions.

In 2012, Improve International signed a new three-way agreement with the European School of Veterinary



Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS) and Harper Adams University. All three parties will be working together to offer delegates the opportunity of achieving a Postgraduate Certificate in their chosen subject. This valuable qualification can be used towards a future Master's Degree and is academically equivalent to other PgC's currently available to the UK veterinary profession.

So if you really want to change your professional life, enrol this year on one of these cutting edge programmes.

David Babington BVetMed MRCVS
Managing Director Improve International

Register now at
www.improvecpd.com,
email enquiries@
improvecpd.com or
call 01793 759159 for
further information.



Alison Moores

BVSc(Hons) CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

The Improve modular surgical course is ideally suited to the veterinary surgeon with a strong interest in surgery and the motivation to significantly improve their knowledge, problem solving and surgical skills.

As experienced clinicians and educators, who have usually worked in both first opinion and referral practice, the lecturers aim to impart information learnt from many years of managing surgical cases.

My teaching methods include investigating clinical cases in a 'problem-based' approach e.g. the dysuric dog; teaching thoracic surgery based on a series of radiographs and clinical case scenarios; providing general tips on how to perform a surgical procedure or improve technique; and giving opinions on the recent literature. The emphasis is always on sharing my experience, backed up by case examples and practical sessions.

About our partners

Harper Adams and ESVPS



Harper Adams
University

The rationale for developing the awards of PgC Small Animal Surgery and PgC Small Animal Medicine was based on the desire to offer vets in general practice an accessible route to a university validated programme which would enable them to expand their knowledge, develop their skills and achieve a recognised postgraduate qualification.

Veterinary surgeons who have been in practice for two or more years will have had the opportunity to develop particular practice interests. The purpose of the postgraduate awards is to consolidate and recognise those interests, whilst developing the confidence and competence of the individuals during their period of training with Improve International and ESVPS.

Since its foundation in 1901, Harper Adams has had a long and proud tradition of working closely with the rural sector and we will continue to do so, to add relevance to our teaching and research and to act as a focal point for transferring research into practice. At Harper Adams, our strong industry links add business relevance to the University's role in higher education and encourage lifelong



learning. Staff here are committed to building partnerships with industry, the professions and the community to promote the transfer of knowledge.

We have achieved, and work hard to maintain, the highest educational standards, and are widely recognised for the quality of our provision. In the Sunday Times University Guide we were named University College of the Year for six years in a row, and have been commended in the Guide's assessments of our teaching. In addition, with a graduate employment rate of over 98% <http://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures.cfm> in 2010/11 our performance placed us within the top 10 higher education institutions in the UK. Harper Adams was given full University title in December 2012.



Since the launch of the first General Practitioner Certificates in 2003, over 1200 veterinary surgeons have achieved an ESVPS Certificate.

The General Practitioner Certificates (GPCert) were designed to meet the needs of busy veterinary practitioners wanting to gain a post graduate 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 GPCert 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 General Practitioner Certificate 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 Adam University (HAU). Through this collaboration

vets enrolled on the Improve International training programmes in Small Animal Medicine and Small Animal Surgery will be able to sit a University supervised examination run by ESVPS as the Assessment Partner. 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 Agency Framework and carries 60 transferable academic credits at this level. It is intended that a route to a full Master's Degree will be available in due course and that 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 Small Animal Medicine and Small Animal Surgery 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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Marni Miller
BVetMed MRCVS

The theory backed up by the amazing practical sessions really consolidate your knowledge base, and in my case, gave me a kick (up the backside) to crack on, read the notes, read the textbook, watch the DVD and go ahead and book in the perineal hernia repair or the salivary gland removal instead of referring it on to someone else's practice. I now eagerly anticipate the next surgery case walking through that consulting room door.

There is no doubt that attending the Improve course in small animal surgery has given me the confidence to say "well, actually, I can do that".

Small Animal Surgery

Year one: Soft-tissue surgery

Modules 01 – 12



All courses
start in the autumn
- for full details on
venues and dates
see page 15

Principal taught modules

01 Surgical asepsis and basic operative techniques: Wounds and wound healing

- Instrumentation and instrument handling
- Antiseptics, sterilisation techniques and use of antibiotics
- Gloving and gowning
- Principles of wound healing - primary and delayed closure, secondary healing
- Principles of reconstructive surgery - skin flaps and grafts
- Principles and uses of surgical drains.

02 Gastrointestinal surgery I

- Salivary gland diseases - mucocoeles, trauma, hypersialism, neoplasia
- Oesophageal foreign bodies, trauma, strictures, diverticulum, neoplasia
- The stomach - hiatal hernias, gastric foreign bodies, dilatation/volvulus, gastric outflow disease, gastric neoplasia.

03 Gastrointestinal surgery II and liver, spleen and pancreas surgery

- Intestinal surgery - serosal and omental patching, obstructions and foreign bodies, neoplasia
- Megacolon, rectal prolapse and stricture
- The anus and perianal area - atresia ani, anal sac disease, anal furunculosis
- Liver, spleen and pancreas surgery.

04 Urinary and reproductive tract surgery

- Obstructive diseases of the urinary tract - ureters, bladder and urethra
- Urinary tract trauma - kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra
- Urinary incontinence
- Urinary tract neoplasia
- Disorders and surgery of the female and male reproductive tracts.

07 Oral & pharyngeal surgery: the ear

- Surgery of the lips and cheeks, tongue and hard palate
- Maxilla/mandible - maxillectomy and mandibulectomy
- Pharyngeal surgery
- Tonsillar surgery
- The ear - lateral wall resection, vertical canal ablation, total canal ablation/lateral bulla osteotomy, ventral bulla osteotomy, haematomas.

08 Surgery of the upper airways: laryngeal and tracheal surgery

- The nose - neoplasia, autoimmune disease
- The nasal sinuses
- Brachycephalic airway disease
- Laryngeal diseases - paralysis, collapse, trauma, stenosis, neoplasia
- Tracheal surgery - tracheotomy,



tracheostomy, collapse, resection/ anastomosis, trauma, foreign bodies, neoplasia.

09 Thoracic surgery

- Instrumentation, thoracotomy procedures, thoracic drainage
- Lung lobectomy, thoracic trauma
- Diaphragmatic ruptures
- Chylothorax
- Patent ductus arteriosus.

10 Surgical oncology

- Principles of oncologic surgery
- Surgery for skin tumours, oral tumours, gastrointestinal tumours, urogenital tumours and chest wall tumours
- Feline specific tumours.

Speakers

Jonathan Bell
BVM&S CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Hannes Bergmann
DrVetMed DipECVS MRCVS

Jackie Demetriou
BVetMed CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Jane Ladlow
MA VetMB CertSAS CertVR DipECVS MRCVS

Alison Moores
BVSc(Hons) CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Don Sheahan
BVSc BSc CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Guillaume Chanoit
DVM MSc PhD DECVS DACVS MRCVS

Practical course: Soft tissue modules*

Delegates will spend time reviewing the surgical procedures listed below by way of short lectures and, where appropriate, video presentations.

Delegates will then practise the surgical procedures in a wet-lab environment with demonstrations and close support from the course tutor. Delegates will spend the majority of the allotted time on 'hands on' sessions.

Two-day course: Part one

05 Day 1: Reconstructive surgery

Wound closure - tension relief, prevention of 'dog ears', relaxing incisions. Pedicle flaps - advancement flaps, rotational flaps, transposition flaps. Muscle and omental flaps - external abdominal oblique muscle flap, omental transposition. Skin grafts - full thickness skin grafts and stamp grafts.

06 Day 2: Gastrointestinal & urinary tract surgery

Oesophageal foreign bodies - pre-op management, anaesthesia, surgical anatomy, surgical technique, post-op care and assessment. Gastric dilatation volvulus - temporary and permanent gastropexy. Nephrectomy and nephrotomy - partial nephrectomy, ureteronephrectomy, indications for nephrotomy. Urethrostomy - prescrotal, scrotal, perineal, prepubic.

Two-day course: Part two

11 Day 3: Head and neck surgery

Total ear canal ablation (TECA) - suture materials and special instruments, post-op care and assessment, complications. Ventral bulla osteotomy - suture materials and special instruments, post-op care and assessment, complications. Thyroid surgery - thyroidectomy in the dog, thyroidectomy in the cat demonstration. Unilateral arytenoid lateralisation - pre-op management, anaesthesia, surgical anatomy, surgical technique, post-op care and assessment.

12 Day 4: Thoracic surgery

Thoracotomy - pre-op management, anaesthesia, surgical anatomy, surgical technique, post-op care and assessment. Lung lobectomy partial and complete lobectomy. Pericardectomy - subtotal and total. Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) - pre-operative management, anaesthesia, surgical anatomy, surgical technique, post-op care and assessment.

* Please note all practical sessions take place at our purpose-built practical facility in Swindon.

Course materials

SAS delegates receive course materials worth £500 see page 18 for details.



Duncan Green BVSc GPCert(DI) MRCVS

I am currently enrolled for the Small Animal Surgery Certificate after successfully completing the GPCert(DI) two years ago.

The practical sessions are some of the best I ever attended and the constant personal attention makes for an unparalleled learning opportunity. As before the course gives a well structured learning experience that guides delegates through the very bulky field of small animal surgery. The lectures are well thought through and practical in order to provide us with the best opportunity to learn systematically and also gain practical experience in more challenging or unusual procedures. The lecturers are all fantastic people with the ability to share knowledge effectively.

Small Animal Surgery

Year two: Orthopaedics & spinal surgery

Modules 13 – 22



Principal taught modules

13 Orthopaedics I - the forelimb

- Luxation, osteochondrosis, dysplasia, excision arthroplasty and fractures of the shoulder
- Luxations, developmental disease, un-united anconeal process and fractures of the elbow
- Developmental carpal disease, carpal hyperextension and arthrodesis, luxations, and fractures of the carpus and foot
- Growth plate disorders.

14 Orthopaedics II - the hindlimb

- Conditions of the hip, including dysplasia, luxations, arthroplasty and total hip replacement
- Pelvic fractures
- Femoral fractures
- Conditions of the stifle, including patellar luxation, osteochondrosis, fractures and cruciate rupture
- Conditions of the hock, including osteochondrosis, luxation and fractures.

15 Orthopaedics III - decision making in fracture repair

- The initial assessment of the fracture patient
- Descriptions and applications of fracture classification
- Principles and decision making in fracture repair
- Methods of fracture fixation and implants, including plating and external fixation devices.

16 Orthopaedics IV - complications of fracture repair

- The principles of fracture reduction, including both closed and open techniques
- Options for bone grafting including both cancellous and cortical grafts
- Approaches to the following complications: Delayed union / Non-union / Mal-union / Osteomyelitis.

19 Spinal surgery I

- Lesion localisation - the neurological examination and it's interpretation
- The application of neurodiagnostics
- The approach to and management of paraplegia and tetraplegia
- Neurological emergencies, including cranial trauma and status epilepticus.

20 Spinal surgery II

- Cervical disc surgery
- Thoracolumbar disc surgery
- Lumbosacral disc surgery.



Learning objectives for the four practical sessions:

At the end of the practical sessions, delegates should be able to:

- Outline the pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative care of the patient
- Understand the principles of surgical planning
- Apply principles of surgical planning to selected cases
- Understand the possible surgical complications that may arise following each of the above procedures
- Perform the listed procedures in a wet-lab environment
- Demonstrate the listed procedures to a colleague or the course tutor
- Evaluate their own surgical skills and recognise their limitations with respect to some of the above procedures
- Recognise when to seek assistance from a colleague or referral institution.

Speakers

Eithne Comerford
MVB PhD CertVR CertSAS PGCertHE DipECVS MRCVS

Jonathan Bell
BVM&S CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Hannes Bergmann
DrVetMed DipECVS MRCVS

Sorrel Langley-Hobbs
BVETMed DSAS(Orth) DipECVS MA MRCVS

Don Sheahan
BVSc BSc CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Practical course: Spinal/Orthopaedics modules*

Delegates will then practise the surgical procedures in a wet-lab environment with demonstrations and close support from the course tutor. Delegates will spend the majority of the allotted time on 'hands on' sessions.

Two-day course: Part one

17 Day 1: Joint and fracture surgery in the forelimb

- Osteochondrosis dissecans – surgical approaches to the proximal and distal humerus for the treatment of shoulder and elbow osteochondrosis dissecans (OD)
- Shoulder joint – approach to the biceps tendon for bicipital tenotomy
- Fracture repair – surgical repair of a fractured humerus using a bone plate and screws
- Carpus - carpal arthrodesis technique.

18 Day 2: Joint and fracture surgery in the hindlimb

- Hip joint - surgical approach to the hip for the treatment of luxation
- Fracture repair - surgical repair of a fractured femur using an intramedullary pin and cerclage wires
- Stifle joint I - cranial cruciate ligament repair using the De Angelis suture method
- Stifle joint II - surgical correction of a medially luxating patella by tibial tuberosity transposition.

Two-day course: Part two

21 Day 3: Bone grafting and external skeletal fixation

- Cancellous bone grafting - Harvesting cancellous bone from the proximal humerus
- Review of external fixation equipment - Pins, bars and clamps
- Fracture repair I - Surgical repair of a fractured tibia using half pins
- Fracture repair II - Surgical repair of a comminuted radial fracture using full pins.

22 Day 4: Spinal surgery

- Localising the lesion - How to perform a neurological examination
- How to perform a CSF tap
- Cervical disc surgery - Fenestration and ventral slot procedure to treat cervical disc disease
- Thoracolumbar disc surgery - Hemilaminectomy procedure to treat thoracolumbar disc disease.

* Please note all practical sessions take place at our purpose-built practical facility in Swindon.



Jennifer Hamilton-Ible
BVSc GPCert(SAM) MRCVS

The Improve International Small Animal Medicine course provides a very structured way of completing a certificate, that's really easy to fit in around full time work.

The course has given me a huge amount of confidence in dealing with complex medical cases...

The course has given me a huge amount of confidence in dealing with complex medical cases, and has allowed, in most cases, a full work up to be completed in house, without the need for referral. I was so impressed with the way Improve ran the course that I'm planning on signing up for a second GPCert this September!

Small Animal Medicine

Modules 01 – 10

Principal taught modules

01 Clinical pathology and laboratory medicine

- Discuss the different sampling techniques and sample processing, and identify factors that may affect them
- Understand the rationale behind selection of appropriate tests
- Describe the investigative approach to regenerative anaemia, nonregenerative anaemia and abnormal haemostasis
- Discuss the clinical pathology associated with hepatobiliary and renal disease
- Use the developed knowledge to interpret laboratory data from clinical patients
- Use the acquired information to direct further diagnostic investigations.

02 Cytology

- Describe and understand the principles and practical aspects of cytologic sample collection, storage and preparation
- Describe the correct principles of routine cytologic sample examination

- Understand the different cytological characteristics of effusions, aspirates and lavage samples
- Describe the pathologic principles used to formulate a cytologic diagnosis.

03 Immunology

- Understand the basis of immune function and the immune response
- Describe the pathophysiology of and diagnostic approach to common immune-mediated diseases in small animals
- Understand the basis of therapy for immune-mediated diseases
- Discuss the use of common immunosuppressive therapies.

04 Respiratory disease

- Describe the generic diagnostic approach to respiratory disease in the dog and cat
- Understand the importance of diagnostic aids (radiography, endoscopy) in the investigation of respiratory disease

- Understand the pathophysiology and differential diagnosis of coughing and respiratory distress
- Describe the principles of primary and ancillary respiratory therapeutics.

05 Cardiovascular medicine I

- Understand and describe the principles and importance of physical examination in patients with suspected cardiac disease
- Understand the principles of electrocardiography
- Describe and understand the approach to electrocardiographic interpretation and identify common arrhythmias
- Describe the evaluation of thoracic radiographs in cardiac patients
- Understand the basic principles of echocardiography and its role in diagnosis of cardiac disease.





06 Cardiovascular medicine II

- Describe and understand the events involved in the pathophysiology of cardiac failure
- Define systolic and diastolic failure
- Appreciate the species differences in prevalence of congenital and acquired cardiac diseases
- Describe the major congenital cardiac diseases in dogs and cats
- Describe and understand the pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of acquired valvular, myocardial and pericardial diseases
- Discuss the therapeutic options and their applications in patients with cardiac disease.

07 Clinical pharmacology

- Understand the basic principles of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics
- Describe and understand the principles and clinical applications of therapeutic drug monitoring
- Describe common drug interactions
- Understand and describe the effect of hepatic

and renal disease on drug selection, dosage and administration

- Describe the principles of rational antibiotic selection and usage.

08 Gastroenterology I

- Describe and understand the pathophysiology of acute and chronic vomiting
- Describe and understand the pathophysiology of acute and chronic diarrhoea
- Understand and discuss the diagnostic approaches to vomiting and diarrhoea
- Describe the principles and basic use of endoscopy in the diagnosis of gastrointestinal disease.

09 Gastroenterology II

- Understand the pathophysiology of hepatic and hepatobiliary disease
- Describe the diagnostic approach to the jaundiced patient
- Describe the investigative approach to suspected hepatobiliary disease

- Describe and understand the pathophysiology of exocrine pancreatic disease
- Describe the investigative approach to acute and chronic exocrine pancreatic diseases
- Discuss therapeutic options in hepatobiliary and pancreatic disease.

10 Emergency medicine and critical care

- Describe the elements involved in major body system assessment and stabilisation of the acutely ill or emergency patient
- Describe the use of the emergency laboratory database and its interpretation
- Understand the principles involved in fluid, electrolyte and transfusion therapy
- Describe and understand the principles and practical aspects of critical patient monitoring
- Understand how to recognise cardiopulmonary arrest in small animals
- Understand the application of basic and advanced cardiac life support.

Speakers

Paul Aldridge *BVSc CertSAS MRCVS*

Michael Day
*BVMS PhD BSc FRCPath DipECVP
FASM DSc FRCVS*

Luca Ferasin
*DVM PhD CertVC PGCert(HE) Dip
ECVIM-CA (Cardiology) MRCVS*

Sara Gould *BVetMed DSAM MRCVS.*

Yolanda Martinez Pereira
LdaVet CertVC DipECVIM-CA MRCVS

Simon Tappin
*MA VetMB GPCert(SAP) CertSAM DipE
CVIM-ca MRCVS*

Kathleen Tennant *BVetMed CertSAM
CertVC FRCPath MRCVS*

Susana Silva
DVM CertSAM DipECVIM-CA MRCVS

James Simpson
SDA BVM&S MPhil FHEA MRCVS

Linda Horspool
BVMS PhD DipECVPT MRCVS

Kerry Simpson
BVM&S Cert VC PhD FACVSc (Feline Chapter)

Balazs Szladovits
DVM Dipl ACVP (clin path) MRCVS

Nat Whitley
*BVMS CertVC PhD DipACVIM Dip
ECVIM-CA MRCVS*



Adele Fryers
VetMB GPCert(SAM) MRCVS

The Small Animal Medicine Certificate attracted me as all the modules were focused on medicine which meant that I could dedicate my time to learning things which really interested me.

The knowledge I gained from the course made a huge difference in the way I work up cases and I am much more confident and structured in my approach to medicine cases. It was easy to fit this course in alongside my full time job and I would definitely recommend this to anyone who would like to gain further qualifications but is worried about fitting it in to their already busy life. I am now working my way through the Improve International ultrasound courses and really enjoying them too!

Small Animal Medicine

Modules 11 – 21

Principal taught modules

11 Endocrinology I

- Understand the underlying principles of endocrine anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology
- Describe the clinical signs and diagnostic approach to adrenal, thyroid and parathyroid disorders in dogs and cats
- Understand the basis of medical and (where appropriate) surgical management for diseases affecting the adrenal, thyroid and parathyroid gland.

12 Endocrinology II

- Understand and describe the pathophysiology and clinical signs associated with endocrine pancreatic disease
- Describe the investigation and management of diabetes mellitus and diabetic ketoacidosis in the dog and cat
- Understand the causes of failure to control diabetes and the approach to the unstable diabetic patient

- Understand the pathophysiology of pituitary endocrine diseases
- Describe the clinical signs, investigation and management of pituitary endocrine disease in the dog and cat.

13 Medical neurology

- Understand the principles of functional neuroanatomy
- Describe the principles involved in the neurologic examination and localisation of lesions
- List and understand further diagnostic techniques used in investigation of neurologic disease
- Describe the investigation and management of common neurologic syndromes
- Understand the steps involved in the investigation and management of seizures in dogs and cats.

14 Medical oncology

- Understand the principles of tumour biology and staging
- Describe the general investigative approach to the cancer patient
- Understand the principles of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgical oncology
- Describe the therapeutic management of common canine and feline neoplasms
- Recognise and manage common oncologic emergencies.

15 Infectious diseases

- List the major infectious diseases in dogs and cats
- Describe the diagnosis and management of common infectious diseases in dogs and cats
- Describe the clinical signs of significant imported diseases occurring in dogs and cats
- Understand the principles of vaccination and vaccination regimes





- Describe the steps involved in the pet travel scheme
- List notifiable diseases in dogs and cats.

16 Urology I

- List and describe the diagnostic techniques used in investigation of urinary disease
- Understand the pathophysiology of acute and chronic renal failure, glomerular disease and proteinuria
- Describe the investigative approach to and therapeutic management of acute and chronic renal failure, glomerular disease and proteinuria.

17 Urology II

- Describe and understand the factors involved in the development of crystalluria and urolithiasis in cats and dogs
- Understand the principles of management of lower urinary tract disease in cats and dogs
- Describe the possible causes of urinary incontinence, their diagnosis and management

- Classify canine prostatic diseases and understand their pathogenesis, diagnosis and medical management.

18 Clinical nutrition

- Understand the principles of nutritional assessment in dogs and cats
- Describe the effects of protein-energy malnutrition in dogs and cats
- Understand the concepts of simple and stressed starvation
- Describe the practical options available for enteral and parenteral nutrition in hospitalised patients
- Describe nutritional requirements in patients with hepatic, gastrointestinal, lower urinary tract and cardiac disease.

19 Dermatology

- Understand the steps involved in dermatologic examination in cats and dogs
- Describe dermatologic manifestations of systemic disease.

20 Case-based discussions incorporating course review*

During this module delegates will:

Spend time discussing clinical cases with colleagues and the module tutor and reviewing material covered in the previous modules.

21 Cardiac diagnostics*

The day will be divided between interpreting ECGs and x-rays, reviewing percussion and auscultation techniques and practising echocardiography.

At the end of this module, delegates should understand;

- Murmurs and gallop sounds
- Arrhythmia recognition
- Thoracic radiography
- Echocardiography.

* Please note that modules 20 and 21 take place at our purpose built practical facility in Swindon.

Speakers

Rory Bell

MVB DSAM DECVIM-CA FHEA MRCVS

Nick Bexfield

BVetMed CertSAM DSAM DipECVIM-ca MRCVS

Mike Davies

BVetMed CertVR CertSAO ACI Arb FRCVS

Lucy Davison

MA VetMB DSAM PhD DipECVIM-ca MRCVS

James Elliott

CertSAM DipECVIM-CA (Oncology) MRCVS

Sara Gould

BVetMed DSAM MRCVS

Theresa McCann

BVSc DSAM Dip ECVIM-ca MRCVS

Gerard McLaughlan

BVMS Dip-ECVIM CA MRCVS

Ian Ramsey

BVSc Phd DSAM FHEA DipECVIM-ca MRCVS

David Shearer

BVetMed CertSAD PhD CBiol MSB MRCVS

Simon Swift

MA VetMB CertSAC DipECVIM-CA (Cardiology) MRCVS

An Vanhaesebrouck

DVM CEAV Internal Medicine DipECVN MRCVS



About our courses

General information

All courses will commence in Autumn 2013. Attendance on the taught modules is normally once monthly on a weekday, usually between 2.00pm and 8.00pm. For the surgery practical sessions (held in Swindon for all groups), attendance will normally be between 9.30am and 5.00pm on two consecutive weekdays.

For the surgery practical sessions and modules 20 and 21 of the medicine programme (held in Swindon for all groups), attendance will normally be between 9.30am and 5.00pm on two consecutive weekdays.

Fees

Payment to Improve for the course: Course fees will include all lectures, course notes, refreshments and buffet meals.

Small Animal Medicine*

The course fees for year one of the small animal medicine course will be £3,807.00 plus VAT (£4568.40 in total).

Improve is able to offer a direct debit plan to UK delegates so that delegates can spread the cost of the course over a longer period. There is no additional fee for this service, please contact the Improve office for further details. Unfortunately we cannot offer direct debit plans to Irish delegates however we can accept monthly payments, please contact the Improve office for further details.

Delegates can elect to pay for the full 2-year course or year by year, please note that if electing to pay year by year, the year two fee set in 2014 will apply.

Delegates wishing to pay in full at the time of booking will receive a 5% discount. Please note that this discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount including agreed corporate discounts. A non-refundable deposit due on registration (see payment guide).

Small Animal Surgery*

The course fees for year one of the small animal surgery course (soft tissue) will be £4,536.00 plus VAT (£5,443.20 in total). Improve is able to offer a direct debit plan so that delegates can spread the cost of the course over a longer period. There is no additional fee for this service and please contact the Improve office for further details.

Delegates can elect to pay for the full 2-year course or year by year, please note that if paying year by year the year, two fee set in 2014 will apply.

Delegates wishing to pay in full at the time of booking will receive a 5% discount. Please note that this discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount including agreed corporate discounts. A non-refundable deposit due on registration (see payment guide).

Registration with Harper Adams University and the examination enrolment with ESVPS

Delegates will be given detailed information about the examination structure during the early part of the course. If delegates wish to sit the examination, the examination fee of £951.00 (no VAT) which also includes registration with Harper Adams University is payable directly to ESVPS by January 31st 2014.

The once a month format suited both myself and my practice and I looked forward to catching up with the other delegates each month. Colleagues at work ask me questions and I feel more confident answering them even nearly two years after qualifying.

*Please note: these fees are for UK venues. Please see page 15 for Dublin fees.



Practical sessions

Dates will be given for practicals on registration. Practical sessions have a maximum capacity of 14. We try to keep venue groups together but this is on a first come first served basis.

UK payment guide

GPCert(SAM)

	Net price	VAT	Total Cost	Upfront payment price	Saving
Year one	£3,807.00	£761.40	£4,568.40	£4,340.40	£228.00
Year two	£4,188.00	£837.60	£5,025.60	£4,773.60	£252.00
Both years	£7,995.00	£1,599.00	£9,594.00	£9,114.00	£480.00

GPCert(SAS)

	Net price	VAT	Total Cost	Upfront payment price	Saving
Year one	£4,536.00	£907.20	£5,443.20	£5,172.00	£271.20
Year two	£3,780.00	£756.00	£4,536.00	£4,308.00	£228.00
Both years	£8,316.00	£1,663.20	£9,979.20	£9,480.00	£499.20

Dublin payment guide

GPCert(SAM)

	Net price	VAT	Total Cost	Upfront payment price	Saving
Year one	£3,807.00	£0.00	£3,807.00	£3,617.00	£190.00
Both years	£7,995.00	£0.00	£7,995.00	£7,595.00	£400.00

Modular CPD course dates

All courses will commence in Autumn 2013. Attendance on the taught modules is normally once monthly on a weekday, usually between 2.00pm and 8.00pm. For the surgery practical sessions (held in Swindon for all groups), attendance will normally be between 9.30am and 5.00pm on two consecutive weekdays.

Small Animal Surgery: Year one

	Mod 1	Mod 2	Mod 3	Mod 4	Mod 7	Mod 8	Mod 9	Mod 10
Swindon	3/10/13	7/11/13	5/12/13	8/1/14	4/3/14	23/4/14	8/5/14	5/6/14
Manchester	23/10/13	20/11/13	11/12/13	22/1/14	19/3/14	16/4/14	14/5/14	18/6/14
St Albans	16/10/14	13/11/13	11/12/13	16/1/14	12/3/14	24/4/14	7/5/14	11/6/14
Glasgow	30/10/13	27/11/13	18/12/13	30/01/14	26/3/14	23/4/14	21/5/14	12/6/14

Small Animal Medicine: Year one

	Mod 1	Mod 2	Mod 3	Mod 4	Mod 5	Mod 6	Mod 7	Mod 8	Mod 9	Mod 10
Swindon	10/10/13	4/11/13	5/12/13	17/1/14	12/2/14	12/3/14	22/4/14	23/5/14	9/6/14	3/7/14
Manchester	24/10/13	12/11/13	12/12/13	16/1/14	10/2/14	10/3/14	24/4/14	8/5/14	11/6/14	10/7/14
St Albans	24/10/13	11/11/13	19/12/13	24/01/14	13/2/14	13/3/14	23/4/14	16/5/14	10/6/14	17/7/14
Dublin	23/10/13	13/11/13	9/12/13	30/01/14	11/2/14	11/3/14	15/4/13	7/5/14	12/6/14	17/7/14
Glasgow	29/10/13	26/11/13	18/12/13	29/1/14	26/2/14	26/3/14	16/4/14	20/5/14	24/6/14	3/7/14



Syllabus and learning

Teaching the all-important theory before the practical frees up time for delegates so that they can gain maximum benefit from the ‘hands-on’ sessions. Reviewing anatomical approaches, instrument and tissue handling techniques, and carrying out surgical procedures in a non-stressful situation adds real value to the programme.

Howard Seim DVM Diplomate ACVS
Speaker on the Small Animal Surgery course

Objectives

At the beginning of the course delegates receive a course syllabus and specific learning objectives for all of the taught modules. 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 provided.

Ancillary Materials

Delegates are given a list of recommended texts to support their study. In addition, all delegates enrolling for the course will receive a leading textbook in either medicine or surgery. Supporting materials are also available online including access to journal extracts and papers via CABI VetMed Resource. Each taught module has pre and post module self-evaluation components which are completed online.

Delegates enrolled on the small animal surgery course will receive supporting DVDs of key surgical procedures.

Examinations

Important information: There is no requirement for delegates on these courses to undertake the examinations. Delegates may simply choose to undertake the course in the knowledge that it will help them improve their expertise and skills. For this reason, delegates will not be required to enrol for the relevant examination until 31st January 2014. This allows delegates the opportunity to fully understand what is involved before they commit to the examination.

A representative from ESVPS will talk with 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 ten 500 – 1000 word case studies.

Candidates will also be required to sit a final written examination comprising multiple-choice questions taken from across the whole syllabus. Details will be supplied by ESVPS.

Note: The final examination will take place on one day in October 2015 for all UK delegates at a single venue in England.

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 the GPCerts. It ensures that course content fulfils the criteria for an accredited course and also monitors the examination systems and processes. Similarly, the 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 Small Animal Medicine and Small Animal Surgery programmes ensures that both the teaching elements and the examination processes meet the highest academic standards.

Your feedback

At Improve International we appreciate your feedback. We will issue delegate feedback forms at every module to ensure your expectations are being met.

95.7%

of delegates felt the courses had a practical impact on their work.

95.1%


of delegates said the course had a good balance of theory, discussion and practice.

95.7%

of delegates highly rated the effectiveness of the speakers and their presentation skills.

91.6%

of delegates scored the venue, training room and facilities highly.



I have been teaching modules of the Improve surgery programme for three years both in the UK and in Denmark. The programme provides an excellent mix of theoretical and practical-skills training.

Howard Seim DVM Diplomate ACVS

Frequently asked questions

Free
resources for
all delegates!

I don't know if I can commit to doing the course over two years. Can I spread it over more years?

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 four years to complete the programmes and sit the exam. If you would like to spread the course out a bit, call us on 01793 759159 to discuss all the possibilities.

Have you got any payment options?

By selecting to pay upfront you can benefit from a 5% discount off the total course price. However if you wish to spread the cost we offer a direct debit plan to UK delegates enabling payment to be spread over 12 monthly instalments. Delegates from Eire have the option of paying by instalment via monthly credit card or electronic bank transfer.

I'm not sure if I want to do the exam or not. When do you need to know?

ESVPS will let you settle in to the course before you need to decide on sitting the exam or not. The enrolment date for this series is 31st January 2014.

I want to register on a modular course but I may be away for some of the modules. Does this mean I will miss out?

No. We understand that our delegates are busy professionals and aim to be as flexible as

possible. Whilst we need advance notice if you are going to be unable to attend a particular module, we will make every effort to find you an alternative venue and date.

If the alternative venues and/or dates don't suit, you can probably attend the missed module when the programme runs the following year.

Delegates enrolled for the final examination will be required to attend all taught/ practical modules of the course before sitting the exam.

Will I have to pay for anything on top of the course fee?

If you decide to sit the exam, then you will need to pay ESVPS the exam fee in early 2014. Other than that, it's entirely up to you how much extra you spend on learning resources. You don't have to buy anything. We give each delegate a FREE copy of a key textbook to accompany the course. For Medicine delegates this is the groundbreaking work 'Clinical Medicine of the Dog and Cat' (Schaer, RRP £85) and for Surgery delegates it's the classic one-stop resource 'Small Animal Surgery' (Fossum, RRP £125). Surgery year one delegates also receive three FREE accompanying DVD's by Howard Seim plus two additional DVD's in year two covering orthopaedics/neurology topics. All delegates receive free access to CABI VetMed Resource via an online learning platform provided.

We provide course information online, course notes for the taught area of the syllabus, comprehensive reading lists for each taught and non-taught section, and additional online learning resources. We have negotiated discounts with all of the key veterinary book publishers including Manson, Elsevier and Wiley and can offer delegates books from these publishers at a discounted rate that betters even Amazon prices.

Improve are the only UK distributors of the Howard Seim III VideoVet range of 18 DVD's. Each double DVD contains at least 10 soft tissue procedures shown with a step-by-step commentary and includes accompanying proceedings on CD. Topics include Feline Surgery, Emergency Techniques, Urinary Surgery and Respiratory Surgery. SAM and SAS delegates benefit from a huge discount and can purchase any of the titles for £50 plus VAT (RRP £75 plus VAT) whilst on the course.

Delegates receive course materials worth £500.



Small Animal Surgery

(Theresa Fossum, RRP £125)

All surgery delegates will receive the classic one-stop resource 'Small Animal Surgery'.



Clinical Medicine of the Dog and Cat

(Schaer, RRP £85)

All medicine delegates will receive the excellent textbook 'Clinical Medicine of the Dog and Cat'.

Surgical Techniques DVDs

(RRP £75 each)

Five Surgical Techniques DVDs when you take the surgery course. In year one all delegates will receive three supporting soft tissue surgery DVDs authored by Howard Seim DVM Diplomate ACVS.

Each double DVD gives you at least ten soft tissue procedures with full step-by-step commentary and accompanying proceedings on CD. In year two delegates will receive two further supporting DVDs covering orthopaedics and neurology.

Registration Form

Small Animal Surgery - GPCert(SAS) & Small Animal Medicine - GPCert(SAM)

Your details

Title First name:

Last name:

Qualifications:

Address:

Post code:

Practice name and address (if different to above):

Post code:

Home telephone number:

Work telephone number:

Fax number:

Mobile:

Email:

Vegetarian meal required:
 Yes No

Registration

I wish to register for the following programme beginning in 2013

Small Animal Medicine **Small Animal Surgery**

Venue:

Signature:

Terms and conditions

1. On registering for a course, the delegate shall pay a non refundable deposit and 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 relation 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.

Method of payment (Fees)

Small Animal Surgery

Year One (UK)

£4,536.00 plus VAT (Total £5,443.20) 8 taught modules (2.00 - 8.00pm) plus 2 x two-day practical sessions.

£8,316.00 plus VAT (Total £9,979.20) if paying for years one and two. Fourteen taught modules (2.00 - 8.00pm) plus four two-day practical sessions.

Please note that accommodation for the duration of the practical course is not included in the course fee, although details of local accommodation will be sent to all delegates on registration. In order to reserve you place a non refundable deposit of **£453.60** is due upon registration. This deposit will be deducted from the total course fee upon booking confirmation.

Small Animal Medicine

Year One (UK)

£3,807.00 plus VAT (Total £4,568.40) 10 taught modules (2.00 - 8.00pm).

£7,995.00 plus VAT (Total £9,594.00) if paying for years one and two. Twenty one taught modules (2.00 - 8.00pm).

In order to reserve you place a non refundable deposit of **£380.70** is due upon registration. This deposit will be deducted from the total course fee upon confirmation of your booking.

Year One (Dublin)

£3,807.00 total (No VAT) 10 taught modules (2.00 - 8.00pm).

£7,995.00 total (No VAT) if paying for years one and two. Twenty one taught modules (2.00 - 8.00pm). Please note VAT does NOT apply if you are attending the course in Dublin. In order to reserve you place a non refundable deposit of **£380.70** is due upon registration. This deposit will be deducted from the total course fee on confirmation of your booking.



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.co.uk**. Follow the links to Small Animal Surgery or Small Animal Medicine courses, scroll down the course information and 'Book online'.

Payment by cheque / bankers draft

Please find enclosed a cheque/Bankers Draft for:

£ made payable to **Improve International Ltd**

We also accept payment by BACS, please contact the Improve office on 01793 759159 for all account information.





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www.improvecpd.com



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SAS course video**



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