

# **Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice**

## **B-CKS.0 Clinical Key Skills**

### **Module Outline**



**Module Leader:**

**Jill Maddison BVSc DipVetClinStud PhD FACVSc MRCVS**

**Director of Professional Development**

CPD Unit  
Royal Veterinary College  
Hawkshead Lane  
North Mymms  
Hertfordshire  
AL9 7TA  
Tel: +44 (0)1707 666201  
Fax: +44 (0)1707 666877  
Email: [certavp@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:certavp@rvc.ac.uk)  
[www.rvc.ac.uk/certavp](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/certavp)

This module covers some of the fundamental clinical topics which RCVS considers to be essential for all practising veterinary surgeons, regardless of the species they deal with, or the sector of the profession in which they work.

Completion of this 5-credit B module, along with at least one other 10-credit B module, is necessary for candidates who are aiming to achieve the general Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice, as well as those working towards a designated certificate.

By setting these topics out in a separate module, it is not the intention to imply that the material can be covered in isolation, but rather to ensure that all the topics are covered, regardless of which other B modules the candidate selects.

If the candidate opts to follow more than one B module, the material in this B-CKS.0 module need only be assessed once and does not need to be repeated in additional B modules.

## ASSESSMENT

- To be assessed with relevant clinical practice B modules with addition of a 75 minute online quiz (multiple choice questions) to assess areas of knowledge that may not be used in candidate's daily practice. The quiz will be available every March and September.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### 1. Evidence-based medicine, clinical reasoning and clinical audit

- Welfare assessment in the clinical setting and consideration of all 'five freedoms' when making decisions, for example, recognising when an animal is in pain and/or distress, or suffering in any other way
- Understanding basic ethical decision making, including consideration of all stakeholders and cost benefit analysis
- Knowledge of RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct, including animal welfare obligations, informed consent, euthanasia with or without owner consent, breaking client confidentiality, distinction between clinical and scientific procedure, relevant mutilations

- Basic knowledge of relevant legislation, for example, species-specific regulations and welfare codes, as well as some understanding of unnecessary suffering
- Critical literature review and authority of sources
- Novice and expert reasoning
- Clinical bias
- Value of numerical data in informed practice

## 2. Emergency care and first aid for all domestic species and wild animals

- Principles of basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the assessment of pain and its management (including both pharmacological and non-pharmacological methods of pain relief)
- Attend all domestic and wild animals (that might be encountered by a veterinarian in general practice in the UK) in an emergency and perform basic first aid where it is safe to do so

## 3. Euthanasia / Humane slaughter

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of euthanasia, and requirements in relation to humane slaughter of domestic animal species and wild animals in the UK

## 4. Veterinary public health, Animal Population Health & management of animal related risks

- Principles and requirements can be covered as applicable to the candidate's area of work and may be considered at international, national, regional, local, premises or practice level as appropriate
- Principles and purpose of sanitary controls in the animal environment: bio-security, isolation, import controls, quarantine, and asepsis
- Requirements and responsibilities of the veterinary surgeon in relation to country animal health status: notifiable disease legislation, appropriate reporting pathways, the principles of establishing security in the event of a suspect notifiable disease, principles of export and other health certification
- Principles of minimising potential personal and public risks related to exposure to animals / products of animal origin and requirements for incident reporting: zoonoses, physical injury, animal product-borne infection, medicines controls and residues, safe handling and transport of diagnostic samples, health and safety incident reporting and drug reactions
- Principles and purpose of management of disposal of animal-related risk materials: carcasses, cadavers, animal by-products, medicine and clinical waste

## PREPARING for the B-CKS.0 online quiz

The online quiz of multiple choice questions is designed to assess areas of knowledge and understanding that the RVCS deems important for all veterinarians to be aware of, regardless of their area of practice, that cannot be reasonably assessed through the relevant clinical practice B module.

The online quiz is an open book examination. It is accessible through a website and is run at a set time so that all candidates sit the examination at the same time. The questions are generated from a question bank and each exam is unique i.e. no two candidates will sit the same exam. The topic areas assessed and level of difficulty of the questions will however be the same for every candidate.

### The topics covered by the online quiz are:

- RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct
- Notifiable diseases
- Outbreak investigation
- Emerging disease
- Food borne disease
- Food hygiene
- Zoonoses
- Emergency care and first aid of all species
- Euthanasia and humane slaughter
- Animal welfare
  - five freedoms
  - legislation
  - public surveillance

Before sitting the examination it is beneficial to have a good understanding of basic emergency first aid and access to an appropriate textbook or reference, be familiar with the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and how to access information within it, a good understanding of fundamental issues relating to animal welfare and be familiar with how to search quickly for information relating to public health issues relating to Learning Objectives 3 and 4.

Some useful websites to start with include:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/index.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/animals/overview/latest.shtml>

<http://www.rcvs.org.uk>

Candidates who sit the examination will be given plenty of time to answer the questions as well as an additional reading period. They may refer to textbooks, papers and websites to search for answers to the questions. It is however, vitally important that candidates are familiar with how to search websites without closing or resizing the browser window displaying the examination, as if they close the window they will be logged out of the examination and may not be able to log back in to complete it. It is also vitally important that candidates complete the examination in the allotted time – failure to do so will incur penalty marks.