

Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice

C-VPH.1 Veterinary Public Health

Animal Welfare in the Food Chain

Module Syllabus



Module Leader:

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Enrolment guidance

Before embarking on this module, candidates should fulfil the following criteria:

- a) The candidate should have completed a B module.
- b) It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they have access to sufficient cases to produce adequate material for the module.

Coverage of this module may be integrated with others, particularly other B and C modules. All candidates will normally have completed A-FAVP.1 Foundations of Advanced Veterinary Practice module, and at least one of the practice B modules, before undertaking a C module, although candidates can choose to work through modules in a different order if they wish. In whichever order modules are tackled, compliance with best practice for all the topics covered by module A-FAVP.1 will be expected whenever these are appropriate in C modules. For example, awareness of, and compliance with, all relevant legislation, welfare and ethical principles will be required throughout.

For a designated Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Veterinary Public Health) candidates must complete this module, two further C-VPH or C-VEPI modules, a fourth 10 credit module and an RCVS synoptic assessment. It can be also taken as a free standing module.

Aims

Demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities of the official veterinarian, regulatory bodies, assurance schemes and industry in protecting the welfare of food producing animals.

Learning objectives

1. Legislative Objective: Animal welfare at the level of production, transport and slaughter.

Legislation

1.1 Demonstrate a **basic** understanding of:

- the purpose of animal welfare regulations relating to farms, transport and livestock markets e.g. WOFAR¹, WAMO².
- legislative responsibilities arising from WOFAR, WAMO, PAA including the responsibilities of other enforcement agencies.

1.2 Demonstrate a general understanding of:

- the principles and definitions of animal welfare.

1.3 Demonstrate a detailed understanding of:

- the purpose of WATO³, EU 1/2005⁴, WATOK (Scotland) 2012⁵, WATOK (Wales) 2014⁶, EU 1099/2009⁷.
- legislative responsibilities arising from WATO.
- the enforcement processes for animal welfare non-compliances.

Welfare application

1.4 Demonstrate a general understanding of how to identify signs of welfare compromise on farms, during transport, at markets, during slaughter and during ante- and post-mortem inspection.

1.5 Demonstrate a detailed understanding of:

- the assessment of welfare on farm, during transport, on arrival at markets and abattoirs and at ante-mortem inspection.
- the signs of effective/ineffective stunning and methods of assessing correct stunning and/or killing in livestock species (including poultry).
- the different methods of stunning and killing (mechanical, electrical and gaseous) for livestock and poultry, including the physiology of stunning, and factors affecting the effectiveness of stunning.
- slaughter without stunning.

¹ The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2007 (as amended)

² Welfare of Animals at Market Order 1990

³ Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006

⁴ Council Regulation no 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations

⁵ The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulation 2012

⁶ The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Wales) Regulation 2014

⁷ Council Regulation no 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

Other welfare matters

1.6 Demonstrate a general understanding of:

- the role of the OV, in relation to animal welfare.
- the role of the FSA, APHA and OV's in issuing certificates of competency, assessment, suspension and revocation process.
- the precautionary principle and consumer concerns of animal welfare in the food chain.
- the relevance of on farm production to the fitness of food for human consumption produced from animals.
- understanding of the interrelations between farm level circumstances and the health of animals.

2. Legislative Objective: Good Farming Practices

2.1 Demonstrate a basic understanding of:

- the relevance of Good Farming Practice (GFP).
- different Farm Assurance Schemes in the UK and how they work.
- The statutory management requirements of the revised CAP.

2.2 Demonstrate a general understanding of:

- the role of Food Business Operators (FBOs) and their responsibilities prior to harvesting.
- the purpose of the clean livestock policy.
- the legal requirements relating to good farming practices, such as the proper use of veterinary drugs and feed additives, including withdrawal periods, records on treatment given to animals, diseases diagnosed on farms, farming restrictions etc;.
- the requirements in Annex 1 of (EC) No 853/2004 – General hygiene requirements for primary production and associated operations.
- the purpose and value of food chain information, including inspection results and the effective movement of information in both directions.

Assessment

- Candidates are given the opportunity to have one case report per discipline reviewed prior to marking (therefore only one for all C-VPH modules).
- 5 case reports of up to 2,000 words each. Innovative approaches to demonstrating learning outcomes are welcome, for example, seminar presentations, surveys, policy reviews, video diaries etc. Cases can be collected from up to 12 months prior to the date of enrolment on the CertAVP programme.
- At the end of the case book/portfolio candidates should include a 1,500 word reflective synopsis of what they have learned from these cases. This might include what has changed in their approach to a new case, any new procedures or investigations that are now considered, any additional reading which was helpful, and/or any unexpected features of a case which might influence decision making or case management in the future.

Assessment timetable

Work may be submitted at any time during the year. One report should be submitted first for formative feedback, with the remaining reports preferably submitted in turn, allowing you to learn from the feedback of the previous report to help shape and improve the next report.

This is only a preference so you may wish to submit multiple reports at any one time.

Reports will be assessed within approximately 8 weeks of receipt.

Assessment weighting

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| • Case reports | 85% |
| • Reflective essay | 15% |

Learning support

Learning support is provided to aid self-directed learning and to provide easy access to published articles. You will be given a username and password, which will allow you to log on to 4 different systems:

1. RVC Learn (<http://learn.rvc.ac.uk/>)

- Sample case reports and synopsis.
- Access to discussion forums that are used by all CertAVP candidates as well as RVC tutors. The forums can be used to discuss any topic relevant to the CertAVP VPH C modules or simply to find out who else is out there!
- Access to webinars, which contains guidance on preparing written work for the C modules.
- Access to the RVC online library. This is invaluable when researching literature for writing up case reports. This means that (with rare exception) all journal articles that you want to view can be downloaded to your PC with a few mouse clicks. This includes original research articles as well as review articles and case reports. IT and Library support is available for this facility (email library@rvc.ac.uk or helpdesk@rvc.ac.uk).
- CertAVP candidates receive a 20% discount on RVC CPD courses – please contact the CertAVP office for further details.

2. RVC Intranet (<https://intranet.rvc.ac.uk>)

Access to all information available to all RVC students and employees, for example, news, events, policies, committees, services, Library, IT helpdesk, etc.

3. Athens (<http://www.openathens.net/>)

Athens is an access management system, which controls access to many electronic information sources. When you log in to an Athens protected resource it checks to see if you are a member of an institution that has paid to use that resource, and if your username and password are correct it lets you through.

4. Webmail (<https://webmail.rvc.ac.uk>)

You are given an RVC email address, which you can choose to use for your CertAVP communication. You will also receive general RVC emails to this account.

Preparation of case reports

Select your topics based on your experience and interests. Ideally, you will choose topics that span all or most of the learning topics rather than choosing cases that are similar to one another. We can assess your knowledge, critical thinking, reflexion skills and scientific/ethical reasoning if the topics chosen represent a range of different cases or experiences.

If you are unsure about topic selection please consult your mentor or the CertAVP Manager for further advice.

Case report guidelines

We expect that you will build on the writing skills already demonstrated in your B module essay writing whilst taking into consideration that for the C modules, a more classic scientific case report is expected. We hope to see evidence of your problem solving skills and scientific/ethical reasoning.

We expect case reports to be written in a succinct and logical manner with the use of tables and high quality images such as radiographs, charts and advanced imaging if appropriate. Ensure that all tables and figures are correctly labelled and appropriate legends are included.

The case report should be written in the third person in a style suitable for publication in a Journal (for example Journal of Small Animal Practice). You are expected to demonstrate a high standard of literacy and please ensure that any spelling and grammatical errors have been corrected. You may use well-known abbreviations as long as these are explained in an appendix.

Reports can highlight particular topics or cases/experiences of the students. The discussion should be pertinent and relate to the case/experience, rather than being a review of the literature. Instead use your knowledge gained from research to justify and explain your scientific/ethical reasoning. Reflection is expected even if the case outcome was excellent, there are usually lessons to be learned somewhere. What could have been done differently; were there any limitations of investigation or management; what other treatment options could have been considered? For C modules we expect you to have read a range of material

when researching your case such as relevant textbooks, review articles, case series, relevant legislation (national and international) and research articles from peer reviewed journals.

- References

- These should be properly cited in the text, in accordance with the style in the Journal of Small Animal Practice (JSAP). Avoided listing references that were not cited in the text or vice versa.
- We recommend using Harvard referencing as described by the Anglia-Ruskin University (<http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm>).
- You will find it very helpful to use a program such as Endnote® or Reference manager® to organise your references.

- Appendices

- You may include appendices but please note that the examiners are not obliged to read them (so please don't include essential information).
- Images may be included here or in the main body of text. Include any images that you think are relevant as these generally enhance your report and enable examiners to assess your interpretation.
- Laboratory reports may be included here but all abnormalities need to be written in the text and reference ranges must be included. It is acceptable to scan printed reports rather than re-type them if you prefer, but any case details or details of your name or practice must be blanked out.

The word limit is 2,000 words per case report. Tables, figure legends, appendices and reference list are NOT included in the word count. The report title and titles within the report ARE included. Candidates should not put important information in to a table to avoid the word count; only numerical data should appear within a table (such as laboratory results). In the interests of fairness to all candidates the word count is strictly adhered to and reports that exceed it will be returned unmarked.

All written work submitted to the Royal Veterinary College is passed through plagiarism detection software. Work submitted for this module should not have been submitted for any other courses at RVC or other institutions.

Case diary synopsis

A 1,500 word reflective synopsis might reflex on all the topics covered in the case reports. This could discuss how your thinking or practice has changed in light of your research, alternatively it could discuss your recommendations in relation to animal welfare in the food chain. It can include any additional reading, which was helpful, and/or any unexpected features of a case/situation, which might influence decision making in the future.

Instructions for submitting work

Each piece of work you submit must be anonymous and should be uploaded to Learn for marking. Please ensure that the beginning of each piece of work includes:

1. your student number
2. module name
3. title of work
4. word count (excluding the above, tables, photo titles and references)

Mentor

Candidates who study for the CertAVP VPH C modules with the RVC are advised to find a mentor who can guide them. Finding a mentor, and maintaining appropriate and regular contact, are the responsibility of the candidate and mentors operate on a goodwill basis only. Ideally mentors will have some experience of teaching and examining at either undergraduate or post-graduate level. Members of the RVC Animal Welfare Science and Ethics group cannot act as mentors as they are involved in setting and marking the assessed work. We recommend that an individual mentor does not take on more than 5 CertAVP candidates if possible.

We consider that the role of a mentor should/may include:

- Becoming familiar with the guidance notes that are supplied to candidates.
- Encouraging candidates to undertake continuing professional development and to 'see practice' at a relevant centre/s appropriate to their strengths and weaknesses.
- Encourage candidates to join relevant societies and associations and attend meetings where appropriate.
- Guide candidates on the level and amount of reading that they should be doing during their period of study.
- Encourage candidates to plan their time carefully for logging cases, writing case reports and essays, reading and exam preparation. A reminder of good examination technique may also be useful for some candidates.
- Encourage candidates to get support from other CertAVP candidates either through the RVC learning support discussion forums or by other means.

We consider that a mentor can give general advice on preparation of a case diary and selection of cases for writing up into full length reports. Unlike the previous RCVS Certificate we do not recommend that mentors read any of the case reports in detail and/or give detailed written advice. However, one read through of one case report and some general feedback (ideally verbally) is acceptable. Candidates will be asked to confirm which report has been read through at the time of submission.

Please notify the CertAVP office when you have a mentor as there is a Mentor Guidance document that is provided to them.

Recommended reading list

The following list is given as a guide as to where to start and for this reason cannot be considered 'complete'. We also don't expect candidates to read texts from cover to cover or to use all of the texts listed, however we do recommend you make use of the most recent edition of textbooks where available. We apologise if candidates feel a particular favourite is missing - feel free to use the Learn discussion board to pass on additional suggestions to other candidates.

- N G Gregory (2004) Physiology and behaviour of Animal Suffering. UFAW Animal Welfare Series; Blackwell Publishing, Oxford
- J Webster (2005) Animal welfare: Limping towards Eden. UFAW Animal Welfare Series; Blackwell Publishing, Oxford
- R Ewbank, F Kim-Madslien & C B Hart. Editors. (1999) Management and Welfare of Farm Animals. The UFAW Farm Handbook 4th Edition; UFAW Publications, Wheathampstead
- L Faucitano. (2022) Preslaughter handling and slaughter of meat animals. Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen
- A Velarde, & M Raj. (2016) Animal welfare at slaughter. 5M Publishing Ltd, Sheffield.
- Animal Welfare Council. Reports, Opinions and Letters published on its website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/animal-welfare-committee-awc>