

# Certificate of Advanced Veterinary Practice

## THE AIM AND LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED VETERINARY PRACTICE

### Aim

- The aim of the qualification is to provide a modular route to a recognised level of attainment for practising veterinary surgeons, so that they may perform as competent independent practitioners, delivering a consistently high standard of practice to their clients.
- The framework also aims to provide a structure for continuing professional development and lifelong learning.

### Level

- The qualification is set at the Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) "M" Masters level in the national qualifications framework. The following level descriptor is adapted from the QAA definition of qualifications at this level, **and should be used as an indicator of the level required by all modules in the qualification.**

### *Candidates will need to demonstrate:*

- a thorough understanding of the knowledge base and a critical awareness of developments at the forefront of their area of professional practice;
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own area of practice;
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and clinical enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in their professional area;
- conceptual understanding that enables them to evaluate critically current literature and research in their professional area and evaluate clinical methodologies and techniques, and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate to propose new approaches to professional practice.

### CPD Unit

Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7TA  
Tel: +44 (0)1707 666201 Fax: +44 (0)1707 666877 Email: certavp@rvc.ac.uk

*Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:*

- deal with complex issues in an organised and creative manner, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to veterinary colleagues and to non-veterinary audiences, including clients;
- demonstrate self direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in their professional area of work;
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level;

*and will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for professional veterinary work requiring:*

- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and
- the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

**CPD Unit**

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

## General Guidance Notes

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

Candidates must fulfil the following criteria:

- a) Be a member of RCVS, or hold a degree recognised by the RCVS
- b) Have at least one year's postgraduate experience working as a veterinary surgeon
- c) Be enrolled with RCVS if intending to take the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (enrolment will be valid for 10 years)

### PREPARING FOR A C MODULE

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

#### CPD Unit

Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7TA  
Tel: +44 (0)1707 666201 Fax: +44 (0)1707 666877 Email: certavp@rvc.ac.uk

## Note on CertAVP Standards

The Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice is standard set to Masters level, and therefore marked in relation to the generic criteria for this level laid down by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education within their “Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland”. The following is a description of what is expected:

### **Masters level**

Much of the study undertaken at Masters level will have been at, or informed by, the forefront of an academic or professional discipline. Students will have shown originality in the application of knowledge, and they will understand how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research. They will be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, and they will show originality in tackling and solving problems.

**They will have the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative, in complex and unpredictable professional environments.**

*Masters degrees are awarded after completion of taught courses, programmes of research, or a mixture of both. Longer, research-based programmes often lead to the degree of MPhil. Most Masters courses last at least one year (if taken full-time), and are taken by persons with Honours degrees (or equivalent achievement). Some Masters degrees in science and engineering are awarded after extended undergraduate programmes that last, typically, a year longer than Honours degree programmes. Also at this level are advanced short courses, often forming parts of Continuing Professional Development programmes, leading to Postgraduate Certificates and Postgraduate Diplomas.*

*(Note: the MAs granted by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are not academic qualifications.)*

### **CPD Unit**

Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7TA  
Tel: +44 (0)1707 666201 Fax: +44 (0)1707 666877 Email: certavp@rvc.ac.uk