

Reference Number	C-E.1
Module Title	Equine Gastrointestinal Disease and Intensive Care
Category and Value	C – 10 credits
Study Hours	100

Introduction

This module will cover the diseases and disorders involving the gastrointestinal system in horses, both medical gastrointestinal disease and surgical colic, and their management, including in the intensive care situation. It is aimed at practicing equine veterinarians.

This module is one of four C-modules covering Equine Medicine, which can be used towards a designated Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Equine Medicine). Candidates are advised to consult the list of available modules for the complete set of options. Upon completion of all the necessary modules, a further synoptic assessment will also be required to achieve a designated certificate.

It is recommended that candidates complete Foundations of Advanced Veterinary Practice (A-FAVP.1) and Equine Practice (B-EP.3) prior to this module, as they provide essential postgraduate training in literature critique and evidence-based medicine (required for journal clubs and assessments) and fundamental training in reflective and evidence-based writing, and clinical reasoning, required for case-based assessments.

Aims

The aims of this module are to increase depth of knowledge of diseases and disorders involving the gastrointestinal system in horses and their management, including in the intensive care situation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates will be able to:

1. demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the principles of equine gastrointestinal disease including the anatomical, physiological, immunological and pathological processes involved;
2. demonstrate an ability to systematically evaluate the interrelationship between management, endoparasitism and other epidemiological factors and the risk factors for gastrointestinal disease relevant to your practice location;
3. demonstrate the ability to apply the principles of equine gastrointestinal disease to the practice situation in the synthesis of appropriate protocols for management and prevention of different types of equine gastrointestinal disease;

4. demonstrate the ability to independently research and critically review the literature to provide evidence to support current or revised protocols for diagnosis or management of equine gastrointestinal disease;
5. demonstrate the ability to critically review and reflect on clinical work, including identifying potential clinical audit points translating to new protocols or measurable outcomes.

This module will also incorporate the generic skills of evidence-based medicine, clinical reasoning, literature review and critique, communication, clinical audit and reflection.

Module Content

Principles of Gastrointestinal Disease

- Epidemiology and risk factors for gastrointestinal disease
- Principles of fluid therapy
- Systemic inflammatory response, DIC and ischemia/reperfusion
- The role of microbiology of the equine gastrointestinal tract

Medical Gastrointestinal Disease

- Endoparasites of the equine gastrointestinal tract
- Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS)
- Acute diarrhoea
- Chronic diarrhoea and weight loss
- Choke and dysphagia
- Dental disease
- Peritonitis
- Nutritional management

Surgical Colic and Intensive Care

- Anaesthesia of the surgical colic
- Analgesia of the surgical colic
- Antimicrobial selection and use in surgical colic
- Ileus and prokinetics
- Management of post-operative complications
- Outcomes of surgical colic

Assessment Strategy

Module providers are responsible for deciding on assessment strategies and methods, subject to accreditation by RCVS.