

Ref. No.	C-VD.2
Title:	Small Animal Dermatology (a)
Category and Value:	C - 10 credits
Notional Study Hours:	100

Aim

The aim of this module is to develop an in-depth understanding of the diagnostic approach to dermatological diseases commonly seen in practice, including an in-depth knowledge of potential historical or management factors and development of a logical, systematic and reasoned diagnostic approach to each patient. In undertaking the module, candidates will also develop their skills in critical evaluation of their own clinical practice and show self-direction in developing strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, successful candidates should be able to:

- critically reflect on the importance of history taking and how this impacts on diagnostic investigations;
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of primary and secondary skin lesions seen in companion animals and the significance of each;
- demonstrate a logical, reasoned and systematic approach to diagnostic testing in the investigation of dermatological conditions commonly seen in practice;
- demonstrate their ability to incorporate clinical reasoning and evidence based practice in their management of dermatological conditions commonly seen in practice;
- critically evaluate their clinical work to improve outcomes;
- review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area;
- recognise when a case is unusual or atypical and demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the information resources available to enable them to deal with such cases.

Module Content

1. Clinical Examination and Patterns of Disease

This will cover the clinical examination, including the taking of a dermatological history, lesion mapping and the documentation of primary and secondary lesions

Nutrition and the influence of diet on cutaneous disease will be addressed

There will be a focus on the following presentations of skin disease and guidance on developing a list of differential diagnoses specific to these presentations:

- Pruritic disorders
- Alopecia
- Crusting and/or scaling (seborrhoea)
- Macular, papular and pustular disorders
- Draining tracts and non-healing lesions
- Erosive and ulcerative disorders
- Pigmentary changes
- Nodules, tumours and swellings
- Common disorders of specific body sites: ears, face, feet and claws.

2. Approach to skin diseases presenting with crusting and/or scaling

This will focus on the approach to crusting and/or scaling.

3. Approach to skin diseases presenting with alopecia

This will focus on the approach to alopecia.

4. Approach to skin diseases presenting with pruritus

This will focus on the approach to pruritus.

5. Approach to skin diseases presenting with specific dermatological manifestations

This will cover the approach to specific manifestations of dermatological disease such as otitis, pododermatitis, anal sac disease and cutaneous neoplasia.

Suggested Assessment Strategy

1. Short essay questions (500 words) at the end of study units 1 and 2 (1 hour duration);
2. An MCQ test at the end of the module (1 hour duration);
3. A written and/or oral critique of an original research paper in the veterinary literature relevant to a topic within this module;
4. Portfolio of cases (20 case log book)
5. A reflective case report of 2000 words focussing on the diagnostic approach to a dermatological case relevant to a topic within this module.