REF. NO.	C –VDI.2
TITLE:	VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SMALL ANIMAL DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING (ORTHOPAEDIC)
CATEGORY AND VALUE:	C - 10 CREDITS
NOTIONAL STUDY HOURS:	100

STANDARDS

The aim of the module is to enable the candidate to extend and consolidate clinical knowledge and skills gained at undergraduate level, and to develop an in-depth understanding of the application of that knowledge in a practice environment in relation to Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging.

AREA COVERED

Specifically, this module relates to problems of the locomotor system including the appendicular and axial skeleton and related structures.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY FOR THIS MODULE

It is suggested that this module could be assessed by the following methods:

- *A **case report** of up to 2,500 words in length. This case should be selected to demonstrate the candidate's ability to use the competences that have been acquired to cope with a challenging situation, rather than necessarily using classic "textbook cases" of particular conditions. It should be presented "editor-ready" in a format appropriate to one of the main veterinary journals. Illustrations should be in a digital format and demonstrate the important features of the case.*

- *A **series of unseen diagnostic imaging cases** (minimum 6 sets of films) reported, blinded to history and other case details, under examination conditions. Ten to twelve minutes should be made available for each set.*

- *A minimum of **two unseen sets of films** marked up to test radiographic anatomy, with a similar time allowance to that provided for the unseen cases.*

MODULE CONTENT

At the end of this module, candidates should be able to:

- Recognise **faults** due to defects in processing and film handling, and deficiencies in film identification; recognise problems relating to density, contrast and sharpness due to inadequate radiographic procedure; and recognise, from films, deficiencies in radiation safety procedures.

- Recognise and describe **normal radiographic anatomy** – candidates should possess a detailed knowledge of the normal radiographic anatomy of the dog and cat and of their variations with breed and age. In other species a knowledge compatible with current use would be expected.

- Apply the **principles of radiological interpretation** – the recognition of tissue types; formation of shadowgraphs; effects of superimposition and multiple shadows. Changes in opacity, size, shape, position and function of organs. The use of simple positional and contrast aids to elucidate radiographic problems. The applications of these basic principles to the evaluation of radiological signs in relation to clinical problems in small animal orthopaedics and rheumatology.

COMMENTARY ON THE CONTENT

Interpretation applies to the diagnostic radiological features of the more commonly encountered clinical conditions seen in veterinary practice.

The Head Common abnormalities affecting the skull, jaw and teeth. Differential diagnoses.

Musculoskeletal System Common abnormalities affecting bones and joints. Fractures, dislocations, inflammatory and neoplastic conditions. Congenital and developmental abnormalities, metabolic disorders. Trauma. Differential diagnoses.

Axial Skeleton and Central Axial Nervous System Common abnormalities affecting the skeleton and the central nervous system. Fractures, dislocations, congenital and developmental abnormalities. Degenerative conditions. Inflammatory and neoplastic changes. The principles and problems associated with the use of contrast media to demonstrate lesions of the brain and spinal cord.

Soft Tissue Trauma. Foreign bodies. Sinuses. Calcification. The use of contrast media. Differential diagnoses.

Special techniques Candidates should be familiar with the general principles of contrast examinations and the performance and interpretation of the more commonly used techniques. They should understand the principles of fluoroscopy with image intensification, and the use of ultrasonography to examine bone surfaces and tendons/ligaments.

Note on Species and Choice of Cases:
The scope of the examination is related to those conditions likely to be encountered in general veterinary practice.