REF. NO	A-FAVP.1
TITLE	FOUNDATIONS OF ADVANCED VETERINARY PRACTICE
CATEGORY AND VALUE	10
NOTIONAL STUDY HOURS	100

Introduction

The objective of the CertAVP programme is to provide a modular route to achievement of an advanced level of practice and to provide structure to lifelong professional learning and development. Advanced veterinary practice is characterised by the acquisition of an expert knowledge base and the ability to make complex professional decisions in a diverse range of veterinary roles. It is RVCS policy that this Foundations module is required by all candidates aiming to achieve the CertAVP qualification.

As well as providing a general foundation for development of the extended and expanded knowledge and skills required by advanced veterinary practitioners, the module prepares candidates for the academic learning and assessment requirements of B and C modules. Also in accordance with RCVS policy, the module seeks to confirm certain fundamental aspects of professional understanding required by veterinary practitioners working within the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct. Finally, the module seeks to promote the development of various key or transferable skills which underpin success in education, employment, lifelong learning and personal development. The module is therefore relevant to the learning needs of candidates in a wide range of veterinary roles.

Aim

The aim of the module is to provide a foundation for advanced veterinary practice. Its specific objectives are:

- To develop the foundation knowledge and skills required for advanced veterinary practice.
- To confirm that CertAVP candidates comprehend and can critically apply the professional requirements described in the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct.
- To develop candidates as independent learners not just as preparation for further CertAVP modules but also to meet life-long professional and personal learning needs and obligations.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, candidates will be able to:
- Describe the thinking and decision-making processes required for advanced professional practice.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the principles of emergency care (including first aid, pain relief, euthanasia and emergency slaughter) in all species that might be encountered by veterinarians in general practice in the UK.
- Explain the roles and responsibilities which veterinary surgeons have in relation to protecting animal and human health.
- Interpret and appraise their obligations towards animal welfare and professional conduct as laid down in the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.
- Describe the reasons for maintaining and improving the quality and safety of the service they provide and the means of achieving this.
- Demonstrate the following key skills required for advanced professional and personal development
    - Communicate confidently and effectively in order to achieve their professional objectives.
    - Evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses and demonstrate the importance of maintaining and developing professional competence.
    - Gather, organise, analyse, interpret and present complex data and information for the purpose of advanced professional and personal development.

The module value (10 credits) is to be allocated to each learning outcome in generally equal proportions.

Conceptual Outline

The scope of the module is defined by a number of broad study areas, as described below. In order to achieve the intended Learning Outcomes, candidates will be required to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and capability in all of these areas. However, the required breadth and level of study will depend on the existing familiarity which candidates have with the subject matter and on their individual learning needs.

Principles of Professional Reasoning and Decision Making   This area of study is intended to provide candidates with the tools needed to tackle complex clinical and wider professional problems in a more advanced and systematic manner, to draw rational conclusions, make reasoned decisions autonomously and learn from the process. Knowledge and skills **could** include:

- Models of scientific reasoning
- Principles of clinical reasoning and evidence-based practice
- Dealing with risk and uncertainty
- Approaches to problem-solving and decision-making (such as root-cause analysis, brainstorming and decision analysis.)
- Application of logical, analytic, critical, problem-solving and synthetic skills.

Emergency Care   The purpose of this study area is to ensure that principles relating to the emergency care of animals remain as a foundation of advanced practice. Knowledge and skills **should** include:

- First aid, emergency care and pain relief
- Euthanasia and humane slaughter
- Ability to access relevant information rapidly and apply it appropriately.

Animal and Public Health Protection   This area of study is intended to ensure that veterinary responsibility for protection of human and animal health is established as a foundation of advanced veterinary practice. Knowledge and skills **should** include:

- Principles of animal disease detection, reporting (notification), and surveillance
- Principles of epidemiology and risk assessment
- Principles of biosecurity, hygiene and animal disease control measures (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice)
- Principles of certification for export and animal health (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice).
- Management of animal- and veterinary-related public health risks (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice)
- Ability to carry out health certification (relevant to a chosen area of veterinary practice)
- Recognition of health protection as a collective responsibility.
- Ability to access, interpret and apply relevant health-related information.

Animal Welfare, Professional Conduct and Veterinary Ethics   This area of study is intended to ensure that welfare and ethical concerns are integrated into all aspects of advanced practice. Knowledge and skills **could** include:

- RCVS Guide to Code of Professional Conduct
- Scientific and philosophical foundations of animal welfare assessment and ethical approaches to decision making in veterinary practice
- Models of professional organisation, conduct and ethics.
- Ability to reflect on the role of veterinary science in the broader context of society
- Critical awareness of welfare and ethical issues as they relate to advanced practice
- Ability to integrate ethical considerations into clinical and professional decision-making

Quality and Safety in Veterinary Practice   The aim of this area of study is to encourage candidates to promote continuous improvement in the quality and safety of their chosen area of veterinary practice. Knowledge and skills **could** include:

- Approaches to quality assurance and management such as:
  - Managing adverse and significant events
  - Clinical governance

- Audit
- Clinical and professional leadership
- Health and safety management
- Skills covered in other module subject areas

Key Skills

Key skills provide a foundation for academic, vocational and personal development. They are common to all learning activity but provide particular support to the capacity of candidates to manage their own learning. Key skills underpin effective performance in a wide range of settings and may assist candidates to respond more effectively to unfamiliar problems and challenges.

The Foundations module emphasises three general key skills areas: **Communication, Personal and Professional Development,** and **Research Skills for Personal and Professional Development,** the development of which should be integrated with the other study areas. There is no requirement for candidates to study key skills separately, nor should key skills be assessed separately. Candidates should however be encouraged to identify and address their own key skill development needs.

The following list, grouped under the three general headings, is intended to illustrate the sorts of key skills which candidates may need to develop and consciously apply.

Communication

- Referencing systems
- Essay and report writing
- Information and communication technology, including oral presentation techniques
- Consultation models
- Selecting appropriate methods of communication
- Identifying, critically evaluating, and synthesising relevant information and presenting it appropriately
- Critically reflecting on the effectiveness of communication, using feedback constructively, and further developing communication skills

Personal and professional development

- Feedback and appraisal
- Identification of individual learning needs
- Learning, and learning styles
- Time-management
- Reflection and reflective writing
- Planning, learning and evaluating
- Self-appraisal, reflection, acceptance of feedback, time management
- Confidence, self-discipline, motivation, adaptability, persistence and professionalism

Research skills for personal and professional development

- Basic scientific and statistical methodology
- Bibliographical resources, archives, and other sources of information.
- Literature search strategies and enquiry techniques.
- Critical appraisal
- Ethical aspects of research such as confidentiality, attribution, copyright and ownership of data.
- Identifying, analysing and evaluating relevant information
- Managing information, including understanding professional and legal requirements relating to clinical, professional and research data

Assessment

Module providers are responsible for deciding on assessment strategies and methods, subject to accreditation by RCVS. The following general guidance applies to assessment of this module:

- Assessment will be in accordance with the general requirement for the CertAVP qualification to be benchmarked against the Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) "M" level in the national qualifications framework.
- Assessment will support the RCVS requirement for the module to be accessible to candidates from a wide variety of veterinary backgrounds
- Assessment will be aimed at encouraging learning and at measuring progress towards the intended learning outcomes of the module.

The following assessment methods may be appropriate to this module:

- **Essays and other independent assignments and projects** – to stimulate and demonstrate the ability to discuss, evaluate, analyse, summarise, criticise and reflect.
- **Case studies and reports** – to stimulate and demonstrate the ability to apply theory to practice, to evaluate evidence and to reflect on practice.
- **Learning logs/reflective diaries** - to stimulate and demonstrate the ability to plan learning, record achievements, provide evidence of learning, and reflect on learning in a structured way.
- **Portfolios** – to stimulate and demonstrate the integration of complex skills, the use of reflective skills in order to analyse and synthesize experiences, and to demonstrate personal skills.