

Reference Number	C-ECC.3
Module Title	Emergency Care B
Category and Value	C – 10 credits
Study Hours	100

Introduction

This module is aimed at veterinary surgeons in general small animal practice or at an emergency service. The module is written from a small animal perspective and the majority of the material will apply to the dog or cat, with a minority of the material addressing common conditions of rabbits and other species.

You should fulfil the following criteria to be enrolled:

- a) Completed module B-SAP.1
- b) It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient emergency cases to both produce adequate material for the case reports and also to allow sufficient experience to develop in this area as this will greatly enhance your ability to pass the written examination.

Coverage of this module may be integrated with others, particularly other B and C modules. You will normally have completed A-FAVP.1 Foundations of Advanced Veterinary Practice module, and at least one of the practice B modules, before undertaking a C module, although you can choose to work through modules in a different order if you wish. In whichever order modules are tackled, compliance with best practice for all the topics covered by module A-FAVP.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.

The module is one of three C- level modules in Emergency and Critical Care. The module is focused on recognition and treatment of common emergencies of the gastrointestinal (includes liver and pancreas), urinary, reproductive, endocrine, oculo-otic and integumentary systems. For a designated Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Emergency and Critical Care) you must complete this module with a combination of C-ECC.1, C-ECC.2, C-VA.3 or a fourth 10 credit module and an RCVS synoptic assessment.

Aims

The aims of the module are to extend and consolidate clinical knowledge and skills gained at undergraduate level, in order to implement a prioritised, problem-based approach to the initial assessment and subsequent management of emergency cases; and to enable the candidate to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future. The candidate is encouraged to develop a cross-disciplinary approach to patient care.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the pathophysiology, treatment and differential diagnosis of common emergency conditions in the aforementioned body systems.
2. Develop a systematic understanding of the knowledge and techniques required to manage the common emergency presentations seen in general practice.
3. Critically appraise current working practices, working environment, staff and equipment with regard to preparation for and management of the emergency patient and plan suitable protocols for optimising their outcomes.
4. Critically evaluate the literature in order that evidence-based medicine underpins their decision making processes.

Module content

1. The aetiologies, typical history, physical examination findings, diagnostic algorithm and treatment options for the patient which has acute dysfunction in the gastrointestinal, urinary, reproductive, endocrine, ocular, otic or integumentary systems or organs. Examples of acute dysfunction include, but are not limited to, the following conditions:
 - **Gastrointestinal, Hepatic and Pancreatic:** vomiting or diarrhoea of any cause, gastric dilation-volvulus, intestinal foreign bodies, gastric decontamination in toxicities, surgical repair of gastrointestinal wounds, rectal prolapse, dental trauma, mandibular fractures, intussusception, megaesophagus, portosystemic shunt, end-stage liver disease, acute liver injury/hepatic failure, hepatic encephalopathy, hepatic lipidosis, acute pancreatitis, anorexia of the rabbit
 - **Urinary:** urethral or ureteral obstruction, urinary tract infection, pyelonephritis, uroabdomen, intrinsic acute kidney injury of any cause, decompensated chronic kidney disease
 - **Reproductive:** pyometra, dystocia, misalliance, paraphimosis, prostatic abscess
 - **Endocrine:** hyperthyroidism in the cat, hypoadrenocorticism in the dog, diabetic ketoacidosis, hypoglycaemia, insulinoma, diabetes mellitus.
 - **Oculo-Otic:** acute vestibular disease, otitis externa and media, aural haematoma, uveitis, glaucoma, corneal abrasions/ ulcers/ lacerations, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, hyphaema, hypopyon, retinal detachment.
 - **Integumentary:** acute moist dermatitis, ectoparasite infestation, lacerations, thermal burns, chemical burns, necrotising fasciitis
2. Technique for performing common emergency procedures, such as (but not limited to) those listed below.
 - **Gastrointestinal / Hepatic:**
 - Place a naso-gastric/-oesophageal tube and administer enteral nutritional support
 - Place an oesophagostomy tube and administer enteral nutritional support
 - Surgical repair and post-operative management of a gastric dilation-volvulus
 - Calculate daily caloric requirements for enteral nutrition
 - Perform a diagnostic peritoneal lavage and interpret the findings

- Calculate the daily fluid balance for a patient on intravenous fluids
- Perform a point of care abdominal ultrasound (POCUS) and recognise free abdominal fluid
- **Urinary:**
 - Place a urinary catheter in male and female dogs and cats
 - Perform cystocentesis
- **Reproductive:**
 - Surgical management and post-operative care of a pyometra
 - Perform a caesarean section
 - Perform resuscitation of neonates post caesarean section
- **Ocular:**
 - Measure intraocular pressure and treat acute glaucoma
 - Perform a fluorescein stain of the cornea and manage a corneal ulcer
- **Integumentary:**
 - Manage burns
 - Manage contaminated wounds
 - Manage a degloving injury

Assessment Strategy

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