

Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Veterinary Primary Care) synopsis

Introduction

Veterinary primary care is characterised by its focus on animals rather than their diseases, on continuity of care, on prevention of disease and on maintenance of health both in individual animals and in populations.

It aims to integrate and coordinate the comprehensive care of animals as well as to support the relationships which exist between people and their animals, between clients and veterinary care providers and within the veterinary team

In the context of advanced veterinary practice, primary care is not defined by a general increase in expertise (demonstrated, for example, by the achievement of an arbitrary mix of CertAVP modules) but rather, in terms of three distinct aspects of veterinary primary care:

- Enhanced **clinical skills**, relevant to particular areas of practice.
- Enhanced **generalist skills**, including the consultation and diagnostic skills needed to manage patients safely and effectively even when there is diagnostic uncertainty, the communication skills needed to promote animal health and disease prevention, and the ability to coordinate cost-effective and timely use of resources such as investigations, referrals and treatments.
- Enhanced **leadership, academic, and management skills** which support development and delivery of veterinary services, improvement in quality and safety, collaborative working practices, education, research and innovation.

The designated certificate may be achieved in any area of practice (small animal, equine, production animal etc) but will not be further sub-designated.

Aim

The general aim of synoptic assessments leading to designated certificates is to ensure that candidates demonstrate consistency, integration and application of learning across the subject area concerned.

The specific aims of the designated certificate in Veterinary Primary Care are to

- Provide candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate expertise in the three distinct aspects of veterinary primary care described above.
- Increase accessibility to and interest in the areas of professional development covered by VPC.
- Be compatible with the requirements of Advanced Practitioner status.

Learning outcomes

Candidates who have achieved the designation in Veterinary General Practice will be able to:

- Demonstrate clinical expertise and currency in a particular area of practice relevant to veterinary primary health care
- Use enhanced generalist reasoning, decision-making and communication skills in order to manage patients safely and effectively in primary care settings
- Apply principles of epidemiology evidence based practice to the diagnostic prognostic, therapeutic, and preventive aspects of individual patient clinical care.
- Apply basic principles of epidemiology animal welfare, nutrition and behaviour management to individual animals or animal populations in order to prevent disease and identify health needs.
- Critically appraise the quality and safety of care they provide, including appraisal of their own competence, identification of areas for development and promotion of continuous improvement in standards.
- Demonstrate and promote effective practice leadership in order to direct development of veterinary teams and services through change management, education, research and innovation

Module requirements

Candidates for the designated certificate in Veterinary Primary Care must have achieved 60 credits in the following combinations:

Reference	Title of module	Value
A-FAVP.1	Foundations of Advanced Veterinary Practice	10 credits
And one of:		
B-SAP.1	Small Animal Practice	10 credits
B-PAP.2	Production Animal Practice	10 credits
B-EP.3	Equine Practice	10 credits
Candidates must choose three from:		
C-EBVM.1	Evidence based Veterinary Medicine	10 credits
C-VCG.1	Clinical Governance in Veterinary Practice	10 credits
C-VGP.1	Clinical Audit	10 credits
C-VCM.1	Principles of Coaching and Mentoring Development in Veterinary Practice	10 credits
C-VGP.3	Professional Responsibility and Practice	10 credits
C-VML.1	Veterinary Management and Leadership	10 credits
C-VGP.2	Consultation skills	
Optional	Any relevant module*	10 credits
Free choice:		
Additional	Candidates may choose a B or C module from any discipline	10 credits

*Please confirm with the RCVS education department before starting the assessment

Candidates who have achieved 20 credits from a combination of the A-Professional Key Skills module (A-PKS.1) AND the B-Clinical Key Skills.0 (B-CKS.0) module may use these towards their designated certificate in place of the A-Foundations of Advanced Veterinary Practice (A-FAVP.1) module **AND** the "Free Choice" module.

Free Choice Module:

Candidates are advised to look closely at the learning outcomes listed above to identify any gaps in their knowledge and to choose an appropriate module on this basis. Suggested modules could be:

B-GVM.1	Global Veterinary Medicine	10 credits
C-VPH.1	Animal Welfare in the Food Chain	10 credits
C-VPH.3	Zoonoses and Infectious Diseases	10 credits
C-LAS.4	Health and Diseases of Laboratory Animals	10 credits
C-VEPI.3	Veterinary epidemiology: quantitative methods	10 credits
C-VCR.1	Veterinary Clinical Research	10 credits
C-ASWSEL.x	Animal Welf Sc, Ethics & Law (any one module)	10 credits
C-ZM.x	Zoo Medicine (any one module)	10 credits
C-VBM.x	Veterinary Business Management (any one module)	10 credits

Assessment strategy

The synoptic assessment for a designated certificate in Veterinary Primary care could take the form of a reflective portfolio encompassing all of the learning outcomes listed above or may involve another format approved by the CertAVP sub-committee.

The following general guidance applies to assessment of designated certificates:

- 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 requirements for the CertAVP awards to be accessible to candidates from a wide variety of veterinary backgrounds.
- Assessment will be aimed at encouraging learning and at measuring progress towards intended learning outcomes.
- Assessment of designated certificates will be **synoptic** in nature. Synoptic assessment encourages candidates to combine, integrate and apply elements of learning from different parts of the designated subject area in order to increase their understanding in other parts and across the subject area, showing both breadth and depth
- Learning Outcomes of designated certificates will be assessed in the following areas:

Current knowledge and understanding. Candidates will be required to demonstrate *current* knowledge and understanding of the subject area or areas concerned regardless of how much time has elapsed since they completed the required modules. Their knowledge base must include relevant pathophysiology, accepted and evidenced-based standards of patient care, and developments in diagnosis and management in the designated subject area.

Application and integration. Candidates will be required to demonstrate effective application and integration of learning across the designated subject matter area. This must include application and integration of learning from A and B modules.

Professional practice. Candidates will be required to demonstrate an advanced approach to professional practice not just in the specific area being assessed but to veterinary practice as a whole. In particular, they will be expected to demonstrate awareness of their own level of expertise and how this guides their approach to veterinary practice.