

<b>Reference Number</b>	C-VD.2
<b>Module Title</b>	Small Animal Dermatology A
<b>Category and Value</b>	C – 10 credits
<b>Study Hours</b>	100

## Introduction

This module is focused on small animal dermatology and covers the approach to the diagnosis of dermatological diseases in companion animals, including information gathering and the development of differentials diagnoses, and the diagnostic approach to specific small animal dermatological presentations. This module will extend and consolidate clinical knowledge and skills gained at undergraduate level, to allow application of this knowledge to the initial assessment of patients and their subsequent management. The candidate will be able to evaluate critically their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

The module is aimed at candidates interested in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of these topics within small animal dermatology and is an optional module for the RCVS Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Veterinary Dermatology).

## Aims

The aim of this module is to:

1. 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.
2. Enable the candidate to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically reflect on the importance of history taking and how this affects diagnostic investigations.
2. Synthesise logical, reasoned and systematic approaches to investigate primary and secondary skin lesions in small animals, including the selection of appropriate diagnostic testing.
3. Apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine in the diagnostic approach to dermatological diseases in small animals.
4. Critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and how the literature can be used to inform practice.

5. Critically evaluate and reflect on clinical decision-making, including recognising limitations of competence, determining appropriate referral, and identifying areas for professional development.

## **Module Content**

### **1. Clinical Examination and Patterns of Disease**

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

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
- 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 focuses on the approach to crusting and/or scaling.

### **3. Approach to skin diseases presenting with alopecia**

This focuses on the approach to alopecia.

### **4. Approach to skin diseases presenting with pruritus**

This focuses on the approach to pruritus.

### **5. Approach to skin diseases presenting with specific dermatological manifestations**

This covers the approach to specific manifestations of dermatological disease such as otitis, pododermatitis, facial dermatoses, cutaneous markers of systemic disease and cutaneous neoplasia.

## **Assessment Strategy**

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