

VCS5001: INTEGRATED SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE: PART I

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Integrated Small Animal Medicine: Part I

Subject Code

VCS - Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Course Number

5001

Academic Unit

Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS)

College/School

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (VM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course focuses on clinical-oriented medicine to equip general practitioners with additional knowledge to the already learnt basics in veterinary medicine. It will strengthen the clinician's ability to develop clinical reasoning to be able to assess small animals presented in a veterinary setting to diagnose and treat common medical disorders of dogs and cats, and hone their clinical competences in-line with international standards of veterinary practice (Day One Competences). The course is underpinned by principles of evidence-based practice and contextualised care.

A variety of teaching techniques are used, including lectures, tutorials and case discussions.

This part will focus on key areas like imaging, primary care, gastrointestinal diseases including liver and pancreas, neurology and emergency medicine.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe common medical diseases, including their pathogenesis, pathophysiology, diagnostic investigation, treatment and prognosis.		x	x	x
2	Describe preventative health strategies and design and apply these for individual animals considering their age, geographic location and overall health.		x	x	x
3	Apply data collection skills to be able to take and interpret comprehensive case histories for small animals (i.e., cats and dogs) that include background epidemiological information and specific history relevant to the presenting complaint.		x	x	x
4	Strengthen and apply the framework for clinical reasoning in order to be able to make a diagnosis and formulate effective therapeutic plans that consider the welfare and overall health of the animal and the resources of the client.			x	x
5	Communicate options available to owners including euthanasia and referral to a specialist considering the welfare of the animal, client resources and relevant veterinary legislation.				x
6	Apply the basic principles of diagnostic imaging and anatomy in order to identify normal and abnormal structures, interpret imaging patterns and make radiographic/ultrasonographic diagnoses.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Lectures will provide some basic information but also specific clinical case-scenarios to improve evidence-based practise and clinical skills.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	32 hours in total
2	Case discussions and tutorials	Case discussions will allow participants to work through real-life clinical cases and tutorials provide insights into important clinical techniques and/or allow reflection and analysis on relevant clinical case material.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7 hours in total

Continuous Assessment (%)

0

Examination (%)

100

Examination Duration (Hours)

1.5

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

Integrate the clinical sciences of immunology, hematology, infectious, gastrointestinal, liver, pancreas and emergency medicine to establish a cognitive framework applicable to particular disease situations.

Discuss and demonstrate correct use of diagnostic equipment and methodologies in order to provide optimal and realistic work up options.

Describe the mechanisms of action, dosage and clinical use of common pharmacological agents used in the different disciplines, in order to select and administer suitable agents to ensure patient welfare and safety and discuss options to deal with adverse effects that may arise.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent in understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good in understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Has basic understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Marginal (D)

Has minimal understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Failure (F)

Has poor to absent understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Animal Health & Disease

Problem identification

Organ system involvement

Assessment

Interpretation of diagnostic test results

Differential Diagnosis; Diagnostic Plan; Definitive Diagnosis

Therapy; Treatment Plan

Prognosis

Pathology

Pharmacology

Diagnostics

Primary care

Imaging

Radiology

Gastroenterology

Pancreatic diseases

Hepatology

Emergency Medicine and Critical Care

Neurology

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Small Animal Internal Medicine, Richard W. Nelson and C. Guillermo Couto. Elsevier.
2	Veterinary Internal Medicine. Stephen J. Ettinger. Elsevier.
3	Manual of Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Medicine. Douglass K. Macintire, Kenneth J. Drobatz, Steven C. Haskins, William D. Saxon. Wiley-Blackwell.

4	Small Animal Critical Care Medicine. Deborah Silverstein and Kate Hopper. Elsevier.
5	Veterinary Diagnostic Radiology. Donald E. Thrall. Elsevier.
6	BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Neurology. Simon R. Platt and Natasha J. Olby. BSAVA