

VM4114: SMALL ANIMAL CLINICAL STUDIES 2

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Small Animal Clinical Studies 2

Subject Code

VM - Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

Course Number

4114

Academic Unit

Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS)

College/School

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

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

5

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Completion of Year 4 courses with C grade or above

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course builds on the clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills developed in Small Animal Clinical Studies 1 to be able to diagnose and treat common medical disorders of dogs and cats. In this course, students will also develop skills to diagnose and treat common medical disorders of small mammals.

Similar to Small Animal Clinical Studies 1, this course integrates knowledge and understanding acquired from pre-clinical courses including Animal Body, Function and Dysfunction, Host, Agent and Defence, and Veterinary Practice and Professional Studies.

This course is presented on a systems basis, focusing on clinical examination to detect the signs of alteration in function. Students will draw on knowledge and skills learnt in Function and Dysfunction to be able to explain the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms of clinical abnormalities. Diagnostic imaging is a powerful tool to support and make diagnoses, and learning resources in this area will underpin the key areas covered in this course:

Key Areas:

- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Dermatology
- Dentistry
- Reproductive Medicine
- Small Mammal Medicine – rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters
- Diagnostic Imaging of Exotics (either animals or pets)
- Small Animal Nutrition

In addition, this course will focus on common presentations and procedures in the emergency room. This course provides a sound foundation for progression to Clinical Rotations I, II and III and Pre-Clinical/Clinical EMS. A variety of teaching techniques are used, including lectures, demonstrations, simulations, practical classes and case discussions.

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	
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 cats, dogs and for small mammals that include background epidemiological information and specific history relevant to the presenting complaint.		x	x	x
4	Perform systems-based examinations of animals including neurological, ophthalmological, dermatological, dental, and reproductive examinations and interpret findings, including localisation of neurological lesions.			x	x
5	Perform a behavioural assessment of a patient, and apply the problem-based approach to diagnosis and therapy.			x	x

6	Perform radiography and/or ultrasonography of small animal/small mammal patients as appropriate in order to procure images of optimal diagnostic quality safely and in accordance with current legislation.			x	x
7	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
8	Strengthen and apply the framework for clinical reasoning learnt in Small Animal Clinical Studies 1 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
9	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

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	Students will engage in formal lectures to gain knowledge and essential facts in clinical medicine	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	44 hours in total
2	Case discussions and tutorials*	Students will engage in tutorial activities and case discussions to allow them to work through real-life clinical cases and to analyse and interpret data.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	7 hours in total

3	Practical classes*	Students will participate in groups to get hands-on teaching of practical skills, both on-site and in the clinical skills laboratory.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	14 hours in total
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Additional Information for LTAs

*Practical classes, case discussions and tutorials are COMPULSORY. Students can be absent from no more than one of these sessions per semester. Additional absence(s) from these session(s) constitute a course failure. Permission to make up missed practicals may be granted for excused absences only, and only where feasible (i.e., may not be possible for live animal classes). Unexcused absences do not entitle students to any make-up or alternative arrangements.

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quizzes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	50	-	No
2	Written Examination (3 hrs)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	0	Total: 50%	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

50

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

50

Additional Information for ATs

Students must obtain at least 50% in the continuous assessment "Quizzes" and 50% in the "Written Examination" in order to pass the course. Examinations will be held at scheduled examination times.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Examinations,
Quizzes

Criterion

Integrate the clinical sciences of dentistry, neurology, ophthalmology, dermatology, reproductive medicine small mammal medicine and radiology 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-)

(For C+, C) Has basic understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

See additional information for AR regarding mark range below, as in the BVM programme only C+ and C grades are awarded.

Marginal (D)

Not applicable for the BVM programme

Failure (F)

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

Additional Information for AR

Mark Range

The following is the mark range for each letter grade that must be used for assessment of any examinations or coursework of BVM courses (VM- and GE-coded) offered by PH and VCS:

A+: $\geq 92\%$, **A:** $\geq 87-91.99\%$, **A-:** $\geq 82-86.99\%$, **B+:** $\geq 75-81.99\%$, **B:** $\geq 68-74.99\%$, **B-:** $\geq 61-67.99\%$, **C+:** $\geq 54-60.99\%$, **C:** $\geq 50-53.99\%$, **F:** $< 50\%$

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
- Diagnostic Imaging/Radiology
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Dentistry
- Reproduction

- Nutrition
- Small Mammal Medicine
- Radiology

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	The material that students are expected to know is presented in the lectures and in any notes that may be provided to students by the lecturer. When reviewing learning materials provided for the course (lectures, practical classes), students should focus on the learning objectives for the course.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Students may seek to supplement the information presented in lectures and practical classes as needed by consulting any of the textbooks below where they have questions or where clarification is needed to be able to fulfil the learning objectives.
2	Small Animal Internal Medicine, 6th edition, Richard W. Nelson and C. Guillermo Couto
3	Veterinary Internal Medicine, 8th edition. Stephen J. Ettinger et al.
4	Veterinary Diagnostic Radiology, 7th edition, Donald E. Thrall
5	Muller and Kirk' s Small Animal Dermatology, 7th edition, Miller, Griffin, Campbell
6	BSAVA manual of canine and feline neurology Editors, Simon R. Platt and Natasha J. Olby.
7	BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Dentistry and Oral Surgery (BSAVA British Small Animal Veterinary Association) 4th Edition by Alexander M. Reiter (Editor), Margherita Gracis (Editor)
8	BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Ophthalmology, 3rd Edition David Gould, Gillian McLellan
9	Ferrets, Rabbits, and Rodents: Clinical Medicine and Surgery, by Katherine Quesenberry , Christoph Mans , Connie Orcutt , Edited by James W. Carpenter
10	World Association of Veterinary Dermatology (webinars, guidelines): https://wavd.org/continuing-education/
11	Dermatology online teaching modules (integrated in the CANVAS page): additional information for interested students, images, quizzes, etc.