Prifysgol Wrecsam
Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	VEN409
Module Title	Foundations of Veterinary Nursing Practice 1
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100532
Cost Code	GAAN
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
FdSc Veterinary Nursing	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	**36 hrs**
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	**200 hrs**

Module aims

This module aims to develop foundational knowledge of anatomy and physiology underpinning veterinary nursing practice. It explores the relationship between structure, function and the regulatory mechanisms that maintain normal health, and supports students to apply this knowledge to basic patient assessment and recognition of deviations from normal. The module also introduces key principles of animal husbandry, biosecurity and infection control, promoting safe, effective and welfare-focused veterinary nursing practice.

** Range of species in addition to cats and dogs - holders of veterinary nursing degrees should be competent in providing nursing care to animals that are commonly kept as pets in the UK. This will include rabbits, small mammals and appropriate species of reptiles and birds. In addition to the above animals, a level of basic knowledge and competence in the husbandry and nursing care of horses, endemic UK wildlife and exotic species not commonly seen in the UK https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmarkstatement-veterinary-nursing.*

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Identify cell structures, tissue types, and anatomical landmarks relevant to veterinary nursing practice.
2	Explain the principles of homeostasis and fluid balance in relation to normal physiology.
3	Describe the normal structure and function of the circulatory, respiratory, digestive and musculoskeletal systems, and identify deviations from normal in veterinary patients.
4	Describe the impact of animal husbandry on animal health and wellbeing.

RCVS Standards	**Day One Competences (DOC)**	**Day One Skills (DOS)**
Learning outcomes for this module are mapped to the following RCVS day one competences (DOC) and day one skills (DOS)	17, 19, 29, 34,	1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.13, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:
This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1: Students will complete an unseen in-class applied knowledge test consisting of multiple-choice, short-answer and scenario-based questions.

Assessment 2:

Students will work in small groups to deliver a scenario-based presentation exploring the impact of animal husbandry on health and wellbeing. The scenario will be written by the Veterinary Nursing team. Presentations should also demonstrate understanding of the application of fluid therapy in maintaining or restoring patient health. Work should be supported by academic or professional sources and reflect veterinary nursing responsibilities within a practice setting.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1,3	In-class test	90 minutes	50%	N/A
2	2,4	Group Project	20 minutes narration maximum	50%	N/A

Derogations

Students are required to pass all assessment elements with a minimum mark of 40% for all modules.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learning and teaching on this module will be underpinned by the University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) and will adopt a student-centred, practice-focused approach that supports the development of placement readiness, professional judgement and evidence-based veterinary nursing practice.

A range of learning and teaching methods will be utilised, including:

- **Interactive lectures**
- **Seminars and workshops**
- **Scenario-based learning activities**
- **Guided communication activities and role-play**,
- **Directed academic skills sessions**

Opportunities for formative learning and feedback will be embedded throughout the module to support skill development and prepare students for summative assessment and placement expectations, including communication role play / risk assessment activity / study skill activities (literature searches, peer review writing tasks). A range of modalities will be used by the tutor to provide feedback to students.

Learning and teaching will take place in classroom and simulated clinical environments where appropriate, enabling students to make clear connections between theory, professional behaviour and practice.

Welsh Elements

Welsh language and culture will be embedded within this module in line with the University's Welsh Language Standards and the needs of the veterinary nursing profession in Wales. Students will be encouraged to develop awareness of the Welsh language within professional and clinical contexts.

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage with basic Welsh terminology and phrases relevant to veterinary nursing practice, including simple greetings, client communication and professional interactions. Where appropriate, learning activities and examples will reflect bilingual practice within veterinary settings in Wales.

Students can present their work, access forms, resources, email correspondence, work placements and personal tutorials in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Learning Outcome 1

- Cell structure and function
- Cell and tissue types, including blood cells
- Anatomical terminology, directional terms, body planes and regions
- Anatomical landmarks and surface anatomy relevant to veterinary nursing
- Species variation in common companion animals

Learning Outcome 2

- Homeostasis and regulatory mechanisms
- Body water distribution and fluid compartments
- Fluid movement and balance, including assessment of hydration status
- Physiological regulation (temperature, blood glucose, blood pressure, waste products)
- Physiological adaptation and compensation

Learning Outcome 3

- Structure and function of the musculoskeletal, circulatory, respiratory and gastrointestinal systems
- Normal physiological parameters
- Introduction to common deviations from normal
- Relationship between structure and function (mobility, circulation, oxygenation, elimination)
- Application to basic patient assessment and clinical examination

Learning Outcome 4

- Principles of animal husbandry
- Accommodation and environmental management

- Nutrition and hydration principles
- Infection control, biosecurity and zoonotic risk
- Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation
- Impact of husbandry on health and welfare
- Environmental management for stress reduction

Indicative Bibliography

Essential reading:

Aspinall, V. and Cappello, M. (2024) *Introduction to veterinary anatomy and physiology*. 5th edn. Edinburgh: Elsevier.

Cooper, B., Turner, L. and Mullineaux, E. (2020) *BSAVA textbook of veterinary nursing*. 6th edn. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Other indicative reading:

Ackerman, N. (ed.) (2016) *Aspinall's complete textbook of veterinary nursing*. 3rd edn. Edinburgh: Elsevier.

Colville, T. and Bassert, J.M. (2024) *Clinical anatomy and physiology for veterinary technicians*. 4th edn. St Louis, Missouri: Elsevier.

Klein, B.G. (2019) *Cunningham's textbook of veterinary physiology*. 6th edn. Missouri: Elsevier.

Rendle, M. and Hinde, J. (eds.) (2022) *BSAVA manual of practical veterinary welfare*. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Singh, B. (2016) *Saunders veterinary anatomy colouring book*. 2nd edn. St Louis: Elsevier.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
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