

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	VEN412
Module Title	Diagnostic Procedures and Parasitology
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 students' understanding of diagnostic procedures and parasitology within primary veterinary practice.

Students will explore the principles, indications, limitations and safety considerations of commonly used diagnostic imaging techniques and laboratory tests, including radiation protection requirements, and the role of the veterinary nurse in supporting these procedures under the direction of the veterinary surgeon.

The module will enable students to apply diagnostic principles to patient preparation and positioning for imaging, sample handling, and the interpretation of basic diagnostic and parasitology findings, recognising normal and abnormal parameters, potential sources of error, and the need for appropriate escalation.

Parasitology will be integrated throughout the module, with a focus on identification, life cycles, transmission and evidence-informed prevention and control strategies relevant to commonly encountered UK species, including companion animals and selected additional species in line with professional expectations.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Explain health and safety requirements and core principles of diagnostic imaging and laboratory practice used in veterinary care.
2	Apply principles of diagnostic procedures to patient preparation and positioning for imaging, and the collection and processing of diagnostic laboratory samples.
3	Interpret basic diagnostic imaging and laboratory results, recognising normal and abnormal findings.
4	Identify common endo- and ectoparasites in the UK, outlining life cycles, appropriate prevention and control strategies.

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)	3, 4, 7, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29	1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 2.8, 2.11, 3.2, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 8.1, 8.3, 8.4

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

Assessment 1

Students will create a short, client-facing educational video suitable for a veterinary practice setting. The video will demonstrate understanding of common UK parasites and provide clear, evidence-informed advice on prevention and control.

Assessment 2:

In-class test (unseen, 1.5 hours, MCQs, short answer questions and problem solving questions)

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	4	Coursework	10 minutes	40%	N/A
2	1,2,3	In-class test	90 minutes	60%	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

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

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Learning Outcome 1

- Principles of diagnostic imaging (radiography, dental radiography, ultrasound, endoscopy; awareness of CT, MRI, scintigraphy)
- Indications and limitations of diagnostic imaging and laboratory tests
- Radiation safety (Ionising Radiation Regulations, PPE, dosimetry, protection devices, biological effects)
- Principles of laboratory diagnostics (haematology, urinalysis, biochemistry, microbiology, immunology, parasitology)
- Laboratory health and safety, equipment maintenance, waste management, quality control and SOPs

Learning Outcome 2

- Principles of patient preparation and positioning for diagnostic imaging
- Positioning techniques, terminology, aids and anatomical markers
- Image quality optimisation and avoidance of repeat exposures
- Recording, processing and storage of diagnostic images
- Recognition of positioning, exposure and processing faults
- Sample collection, handling and processing (urinalysis, biochemistry, haematology, microbiology, immunology, tissue and fluid samples)
- Completion of relevant documentation and use of diagnostic schemes (e.g. BVA/KC)

Learning Outcome 3

- Interpretation of normal and abnormal diagnostic findings using reference parameters
- Interpretation of basic parasitology results
- Sources of pre-analytical and analytical error
- Recognition of inconsistent or spurious results
- Limitations of diagnostic testing
- Accurate recording and communication of findings
- Professional boundaries and escalation to the veterinary surgeon

Learning Outcome 4

- Taxonomy and identification of endo- and ectoparasites, including protozoa
- Parasite life cycles, transmission and systems affected
- Zoonotic and public health considerations
- Evidence-informed parasite prevention and control, including resistance
- Client communication, compliance and digital professionalism
- Implications of pet travel

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential reading:

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

Cottrell, S. (2019) *The study skills handbook*. 5th edn. London: Red Globe Press.

Other indicative reading:

Davidson, J. (2019) *Research and study skills for veterinary nurses*. Sheffield: 5M Publishing.

Sandøe, P., Corr, S. and Palmer, C. (2016) *Companion animal ethics*. UFAW Animal Welfare Series. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
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