Dermatology
General Practitioner Certificate (GPCert) Programme

The diagnosis and management of skin disease represents a major component of small animal practice. This updated modular programme will provide a thorough, informed case based approach to dermatology. The emphasis is very much on the approach to different conditions – practical examination techniques, application of appropriate diagnostic procedures and an understanding of the potential complications associated with different body systems, rather than an exhaustive list of potential disorders.

Principal taught modules

01 Anatomy and physiology of the skin and cutaneous pathological processes
Speaker: Mary Fraser
(BVMS PhD CertVD PGCE FHEA FRSPH CBiol FSB MRCVS)
Date: 2 March 2015

- The comparative gross and histological anatomy of the skin of companion animals
- An understanding of the function and physiology of skin of companion animals
- The pathological processes occurring in skin disease
- An understanding of how pathological processes relate to clinical signs and the diagnosis of disease
- Hypersensitivity reactions types I, II, III, IV in the skin and examples of specific skin diseases involving these processes
- The skin response to insults including physical, chemical and microbiological
- Pathogenesis of skin neoplasia

02 Clinical examination and history: essential diagnostic techniques
Speaker: Mary Fraser
Date: 3 March 2015

- Clinical history taking and its interpretation in the diagnosis of skin disease
- Performing a general clinical examination
- Performing a detailed examination of the skin
- An ability to accurately describe skin lesions
- Understanding of key diagnostic tests and their use
- Diagnosis and management of common skin diseases
- Complications encountered during therapy, their prevention and management
- Principles of the collection of samples from the skin relating to skin diseases and interpretation
- Collection of samples for microbiology – skin scrapings, hairs, acetate strips and impression smears
- The use of intradermal skin testing and serology in the diagnosis of allergy
- The use of clinical chemistry in the diagnosis of skin disease
- Basic cytology of samples collected from the skin including masses and discharging sinuses
- Skin and skin mass biopsy

03 Laboratory diagnosis and clinical pathology
Speaker: Mary Fraser
Date: 13 April 2015

- Skin scrapings, hair examination, acetate strip examination, and impression smears
- Sampling techniques (including biopsies), sample processing, storage and recording
- Basic cytology of samples collected from the skin including masses and discharging sinuses
- Interpretation of clinical laboratory medicine information in relation to skin disease, including: haematology, biochemistry and endocrine tests, fluid and electrolyte disorders and cytology
- Diagnostic tests for infectious diseases – techniques and interpretation (including viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases)
- An understanding of the principles of the use of pattern analysis by histopathologists in dermatohistopathology as it relates to disease pathogenesis and diagnosis
- Interpretation of histopathology reports
- This module includes a practical component in the laboratory preparing and interpreting slides

04 General conditions commonly found in dermatology – alopecia, keratinization disorders and pigment changes
Speaker: Mary Fraser
Date: 14 April 2015

- Describe the pathogenesis of alopecia
- Appreciate the clinical features of alopecia
- Understand the differential diagnosis of alopecia and have knowledge of specific conditions
- Outline how to investigate alopecia using a problem solving approach
- Discuss the management and treatment of alopecia
- Describe the pathogenesis of keratinisation disorders/scaling
- Recall the clinical features of these disorders
- Understand the differential diagnosis of these disorders and have knowledge of specific conditions
- Outline how to investigate scaling diseases using a problem solving approach
- Be familiar with the treatment options
- Understand the pathogenesis and clinical features of pigment changes
- Understand the differential diagnosis including specific conditions
- Investigate pigment changes using a problem solving approach
- Be aware of treatment options
Principal taught modules

05 Infectious diseases and preventative healthcare
Speaker: David Shearer (BVetMed CertSAD PhD CBiol MRCVS)
Date: 1 June 2015
- Clinical pathology of the major bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases affecting the skin of companion animals in the UK and Europe
- An awareness of diseases that may be imported by pets travelling from abroad
- Zoonosis, health and safety concerns and precautions

06 Allergic skin disease
Speaker: David Shearer
Date: 2 June 2015
- An understanding of the immune system and immune response by the skin
- Flea and parasite allergies, atopic dermatitis, food and other hypersensitivities
- Underlying pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnostics and treatment options
- Use of combination therapy in atopic dermatitis

07 Diseases of the feet, nails, anal sacs and ears
Speaker: David Shearer
Date: 13 July 2015
- Understand the pathogenesis and clinical features of diseases affecting the feet, nails, anal sacs and ears
- Be able to approach the investigation of pedal, nail, anal sac and aural disease
- Formulate differential diagnoses and have knowledge of specific conditions
- Appreciate treatment options

08 Neoplasia
Speaker: David Shearer
Date: 14 July 2015
- Appreciate the biology of tumours
- Recognise common neoplastic presentations - localised, diffuse and systemic
- Have an understanding of the following types of neoplasia: neoplasia of skin structures - benign, malignant, mast cell tumours, lymphoma, squamous cell carcinoma, mammary tumours
- Neoplasia of other structures with involvement of the skin eg. Cushing’s and hepatocutaneous syndrome
- Recognise paraneoplastic syndromes
- Formulate an approach to the diagnosis and staging of disease
- Appreciate those conditions that could be confused with neoplasia eg. Autoimmune diseases
- Understand the treatment options available medication / chemotherapy and the prognosis for different neoplasms

09 Cutaneous manifestations of internal disease and nutritional diseases.
Speaker: David Shearer
Date: 21 September 2015
- Understand the pathogenesis and clinical features of the cutaneous manifestations of internal disease excluding endocrine disorders
- Appreciate the differential diagnosis of these conditions and the approach to their investigation and treatment
- Have an understanding of congenital hereditary disorders
- Understand the effect of deficiency or excess of vitamins or minerals in skin disease
10 Exotics
Speaker: Simon Girling
(BVMS(Hons) DZooMed DipECZM
(Zoo Health MmenitCGBiol MSB MRCVS)
Date: 22 September 2015
• Understand the normal epithelial anatomy
  of exotic species
• Recognise the importance of husbandry –
  housing, environment, nutrition on the
  dermatological health of these species
• Appreciate ecdysis/dysecdysis in reptiles
• Be familiar with the common conditions
  seen in small mammals, reptiles and birds
  and the pathogenesis, clinical features,
  differential diagnosis, investigation
  and treatment of them

12 Endocrine skin disease
Speaker: Peter Forsythe
(BVM&S DVD MRCVS)
Date: 3 November 2015
• Have an understanding of the physiology
  of the endocrine system
• Appreciate the underlying pathogenesis,
  clinical signs, diagnostics and treatment
  options of the more common
  endocrine disease
• Recognise iatrogenic endocrine disease

11 Autoimmune skin disease
Speaker: Peter Forsythe
(BVM&S DVD MRCVS)
Date: 2 November 2015
• Have an understanding of the immune system
• Be familiar with the underlying
  pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnostics
  and treatment options of autoimmune
  diseases including pemphigus complex
  pemphigoid SLE/DLE adverse
  drug reactions

13 The pharmacy & therapeutics
Speaker: Mary Fraser
Date: 7 December 2015
• Have a working understanding of the
  following regulations: Veterinary Medicines
  Regulations 2013, Medicines Act 1968,
  Medicines Regulations 2012, Misuse
  of Drugs Act 1971, Misuse of Drugs
  Regulations 2012, Health & Safety at Work
  Act 1974, Control of Substances Hazardous
  to Health Regulations 2002
• Be familiar with storage, dispensing
  and labelling of medicines
• Have knowledge of the Veterinary
  Medicines Directorate
• Understand the Prescribing Cascade,
  off license use, importation of medication
  and certification
• Have an understanding of the
  pharmacokinetics, potential interactions
  and adverse effects of common
  therapeutic agents (anti-inflammatories,
  anti-microbials and anti-parasitics) used
  in the management of skin disease
• Have knowledge of the use of topical,
  enteral and parenteral medications
• Appreciate the importance of owner
  compliance and support for long term
  skin conditions
• Discuss the role of the veterinary nurse
  in dermatology consultations

14 Wound management
Speaker: Guillaume Chanot
(DVM MSc PhD DECVS DACVS MRCVS)
Date: 8 December 2015
• Gain a thorough knowledge of wounds
  and the wound healing process
• Be familiar with the medical management
  of wounds
• Understand the different techniques
  available to surgically manage wounds
• Appreciate the various dressings and
  topical treatment options available
**Pricing 2015**

**1 Year (14 module programme)**
- The **total programme** cost includes the GPCert examination fee
- **Two modules** back to back, the cost excludes the GPCert examination fee
- **Individual modules** the cost excludes the GPCert examination fee

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**Terms & conditions**

1. Full payment to be made by BACS, credit card or cheque within 30 days for the total programme and in advance of the module if attending on an individual or paired modular basis.
2. Direct debit plans are administered and collected on our behalf by Animal Healthcare Limited.
3. Multiple booking and corporate discounts available, please contact either 01793 208077 or 01793 759159 for further information.