GENERAL PRACTITIONER ADVANCED CERTIFICATE SOFT TISSUE SURGERY
Progress Through Learning

In partnership with

ESVPS
Harper Adams University

NEW FOR 2019
When you study with Improve International, you join thousands of vets who have taken advantage of flexible modular programmes, designed to complement busy practice life. Facilitated by many of the world’s renowned authorities in veterinary science, every programme will broaden your knowledge and give you deeper expertise that can be taken back to your practice.

This new qualification has been developed for veterinary professionals who wish to advance their knowledge and soft tissue surgery skills, progress their academic qualifications and gain recognition in their field. The programme has received conditional validation from Harper Adams University pending full approval early next year and is also pending ESVPS accreditation. The GPAdvCert in Soft Tissue Surgery is a natural “next-step” for veterinary surgeons wanting to further progress their soft tissue surgery skills.

Each module has been designed to progress your skills beyond Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) level with more in-depth and advanced content covering topics such as current laparoscopy and thoracoscopy techniques.

The programme is divided into 14 modules and includes a variety of teaching modalities developed to maximise your level of knowledge and enhance the learning experience.

Prior knowledge of core surgical principles and relevant anatomy is required.

The GPAdvCert in Soft Tissue Surgery is for veterinary surgeons who have already completed their General Practitioner Certificate in Small Animal Surgery (GPCert SAS) or Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Small Animal Surgery and want to advance their skills in an ever-expanding discipline.

There is an opportunity for your colleagues who hold an equivalent qualification from another provider to also join this programme. Please contact us for further details.
SOFT TISSUE SURGERY

This programme will give you the ability to tackle advanced soft tissue surgical cases, reducing referrals and managing more complex cases in-house.

Advance your soft tissue surgery skills and improve your confidence in managing complications and advising clients on prognosis

- Delivered in three blocks of teaching and practical sessions in three different European state-of-the-art training facilities Cremona (Italy), Madrid (Spain) and Sheffield (UK)
- Experienced world-renowned clinicians (RCVS or ECVS Diploma holders) providing you with the very latest developments in soft tissue surgery covering:
  - The pathophysiology and available literature in relation to small animal surgical conditions
  - An in-depth knowledge of the different types of tumours affecting the body systems, as well as staging, diagnosis and different treatment modalities
  - A focus on problem solving to increase confidence in diagnosing and stabilising animals with complex pathologies
  - Familiarisation with complex surgical techniques and minimally invasive techniques

Support throughout the programme

1. Our learning management system operated through Moodle provides access to a notes library, discussion forum and other study resources including webinars
2. A dedicated Programme Tutor will support every individual during their programme to ensure a rewarding and successful learning journey
3. Direct access to leading surgical specialists at every module
4. A subscription to Harper Adam's online e-library providing access to 1,000s of scientific articles and abstracts
5. Access to one year's subscription of our Online Bitesize CPD with the latest clinical subjects. Continue your learning online, anytime, with a subscription worth £349.00 + VAT

SPEAKERS:

Ana Marques
DVM MACVSc CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS
European and RCVS Recognised Specialist in Small Animal Surgery

Bart Van Goethem
DVM PhD ECVS European Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Surgery

Herve Brissot
DEDV DipECVS MRCVS
European and RCVS Recognised Specialist in Small Animal Surgery

Laura Owen
BVSc CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery Lecturer in Small Animal Surgery

Michael Tivers
BVSc CertSAS DipECVS PhD MRCVS
European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery

Nicolas Bacon
Clinical Director, Oncologic & Soft Tissue Surgery / MA VetMB CertVR CertSAS DipECVS DACVS FRCS
European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery American Specialist in Small Animal Surgery

Samantha Woods
BSc MA VetMB CertSAS Dip ECVS MRCVS European Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Surgery
01 Oral surgery  
11-03-2019
- Explain the pathogenesis of congenital disorders affecting the lips in dogs including cleft palate, abnormal lip conformation, tight lip syndrome, lower lip redundancy and eversion
- Discuss management options and surgical principles for treatment of congenital disorders of the oral cavity
- List the main neoplasms affecting the nasal planum, premaxilla and oral cavity, including the tonsils and tongue
- Be familiar with surgical options for treatment of a variety of oral neoplasms and management of the possible associated post-operative complications
- Describe the options for surgical management of traumatic lesions affecting the oral cavity, lips and cheeks

Includes a practical session where mandibulectomy, maxillectomy, glossectomy, nasal planum reconstruction, palate and lip reconstruction can be practised.

02 Endocrine system surgery  
12-03-2019
- Describe the physiology of the pancreas, thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal glands
- Outline appropriate staging of endocrine neoplasia using aspiration, biopsy and imaging
- Discuss non-surgical options for the management of endocrine neoplasia
- Be able to discuss the peri-operative management of patients undergoing adrenalectomy
- Explain the options for managing surgical complications associated with endocrine surgery
Includes a practical session where thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy, partial pancreatectomy, adrenalectomy and vena cava venotomy can be practised.

03 Skin reconstruction  
13-03-2019
- Summarise wound classification and types of management available
- Be familiar with wound healing
- Describe the different types of subdermal plexus flaps
- Discuss the most reliable axial pattern and myocutaneous flaps and their most common complications
- Explain the classification and healing process of free skin grafts
- Outline the theory behind negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) and how it can be used with success
Includes a practical session where free skin grafts, subdermal plexus, axial pattern and myocutaneous flaps can be practised.

04 Ear, nose and throat surgery  
14-03-2019
- Discuss the pathophysiology and clinical presentation on specific conditions of the nasopharynx
- Describe the surgical options for treatment of nasopharyngeal polyps
- Be familiar with the causes of and management of nasopharyngeal stenosis
- Outline available treatment options for neoplasia of the nasal planum and nasal cavity
- Explain the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of specific conditions affecting the ear canal and middle ear
Includes a practical session where ventral and dorsal rhinotomy, ventral approach to nasopharynx, total ear canal ablation-lateral bulla osteotomy and ventral bulla osteotomy can be practised.
05 Upper gastrointestinal surgery
29-07-2019
- Discuss the pathophysiology of diseases of the stomach including hypertrophic pylorogastropathy and gastric neoplasia
- Describe causes of and treatment options for gastric perforation
- Be familiar with the indications, maintenance and complications associated with placement of gastrostomy and enterostomy tubes
- Outline the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of hiatal hernia

Includes a practical session where gastrostomy and enterostomy tube placement, pyloroplasty techniques, gastroectomy, diaphragmatic myotomy, caudal median sternotomy and oesophagectomy can be practised.

06 Intestinal and lower gastrointestinal surgery
30-07-2019
- Explain the physiology of the colon and rectum
- Be familiar with specific diseases of the colon including megacolon, volvulus and neoplasia
- Outline techniques available for resection of the colon and rectum and the associated peri-operative, long-term complications and prognosis
- Describe the pathophysiology of rectal disease including neoplasia, perforation and anorectal strictures
- Discuss the medical and surgical options for treatment of anal sac neoplasia and prognosis for patients with this condition

Includes a practical session where typhlectomy, colonic resection and anastomosis, subtotal colectomy, anal saculectomy, rectal pull through and the abdominal approach for dissection of metastatic sub-lumbar lymph nodes can be practised.

07 Liver and biliary tract surgery
31-07-2019
- Explain the physiology of the liver and biliary system
- Describe available surgical options for liver lobectomy and the prognosis associated with hepatic neoplasia in the dog and cat
- Outline the pathophysiology of hepatic abscesses and cysts
- Discuss the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of extrahepatic biliary obstruction and gallbladder mucocele
- Be familiar with the clinical presentation of traumatic biliary rupture and the surgical procedures required to treat it

Includes a practical session where liver lobectomy (sutured and stapled), cholecystectomy and choledocoduodenostomy (sutured and stapled) can be practised.

08 Hernias
01-08-2019
- Discuss the pathophysiology of abdominal hernias
- List the surgical options for repair of hernias using autologous or synthetic materials
- Describe emergency stabilisation and surgery for traumatic hernias including when incarceration and/or strangulation has occurred
- Outline the pathophysiology of traumatic and congenital diaphragmatic hernias
- Explain the pathophysiology of perineal herniation and the decision-making process for selection of an appropriate surgical procedure for their repair in individual cases

Includes a practical session where abdominal wall reconstruction by external abdominal oblique myoclesal flap and cranial sartorius muscle flap, use of polypropylene mesh, omentolisation, internal obturator transposition, semitendinosus muscle flap, cystectomy, vas deferens pexy and colposcopy can be practised.

09 Urinary tract surgery
02-08-2019
- Discuss the pathophysiology of urolithiasis and treatment options for calculi within the kidney, ureter, bladder and/or urethra
- Describe urinary tract neoplasia – types, treatment options and prognosis
- Outline the pathophysiology and management of ureteral obstruction including the decision-making process for treatment of individual cases
- Be familiar with available options for treatment of ureteral obstruction including surgery, lithotripsy and stenting
- Discuss the pathophysiology of urinary incontinence
- List the pros and cons of a variety of surgical treatments for urinary incontinence including laser ablation of ectopic ureters, hydraulic occluders, collagen injections and colposuspension

Includes a practical session where nephrotomy, nephrectomy, ureterotomy in dogs, ureteral reimplantation, colposuspension and cystectomy can be practised.
10 Upper airway surgery
18-11-2019
- Describe how animals in respiratory distress can best be managed to reduce morbidity/mortality and improve surgical outcomes
- Discuss the aetiology and clinical findings associated with laryngeal paralysis
- Explain the pathophysiology of Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome
- List indications for temporary and permanent tracheostomy and be able to select an appropriate tube
- Outline the indications and considerations for tracheal resection and anastomosis

Includes a practical session where arytenoid lateralisation, staphlectomy and folding palatoplasty, wedge rhinoplasty, resected of everted laryngeal saccules, partial arytenopectomy, temporary/ permanent tracheostomy and tracheal resection/anastomosis can be practised.

11 Thoracic surgery I
19-11-2019
- Be familiar with the challenges encountered treating thoracic trauma and stabilising patients with severe injuries
- Discuss the aetiology and clinical findings associated with conditions that might require lung lobectomy such as cysts, bullae, lung abscesses, laceration, torsion and pulmonary neoplasia
- Describe the clinical findings and surgical options for treatment of thoracic wall tumours
- Outline pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment options associated with patent ductus arteriosus (PDA)
- Illustrate an understanding of the principles of thoracoscopically assisted thoracic surgery

Includes a practical session where intercostal and rib resection thoracotomy, lung lobectomy, location of PDA and thoracoscopy can be practised.

12 Thoracic surgery II
20-11-2019
- Explain the aetiology and clinical findings associated with chylothorax
- Review the surgical principles and indications for intra-thoracic oesophageal surgery
- Discuss the aetiology and clinical findings associated with pectus excavatum
- Describe the pros and cons of median sternotomy and when this approach should be selected
- Outline the surgical approach for ablation of a neoplastic right atrium

Includes a practical session where median sternotomy, subtotal pericardectomy, caudal thoracotomy/location of the site for ligation of the thoracic duct, transdiaphragmatic approach for ligation of the thoracic duct/cisterna chyli ablation and pleural port placement can be practised.

13 Reproductive surgery
21-11-2019
- Describe the clinical presentation and treatment options for uterine prolapse, rupture and dystocia
- Explain the pathophysiology of specific conditions such as vestibulovaginalstenosis, recessed vulva, vaginal oedema and prolapse, neoplasia of vagina, vestibule and vulva
- Be familiar with a variety of laparoscopic ovariecctomy techniques
- Outline the pathophysiology and clinical signs associated with specific penile disorders such as hypospadia, paraphimosis, penile wounds and tumours
- Outline the medical, surgical and interventional options for treatment of hepatic vascular abnormalities

Includes a practical session where vulvoplasty, episiotomy, partial vaginal resection, laparoscopic ovariecctomy, partial penile amputation, phalloplasty and preputial advancement can be practised.

14 Acute abdomen and hepatic vascular malformations
22-11-2019
- Summarise the pathophysiology and classification of peritonitis
- Explain the pathophysiology associated with penetrating peritoneal injuries, haemorrhage, chylos peritonitis, biliary peritonitis and intra-abdominal abscesses
- Discuss the pathophysiology and clinical findings associated with hepatic vascular abnormalities such as PSS and hepatic arteriovenous malformations
- Outline the medical, surgical and interventional options for treatment of hepatic vascular abnormalities

Includes a practical session where Jackson Pratt abdominal draining, partial cystectomy, biliary stent placement, practical review of hepatic vascular anatomy, vascular dissection and vessel ligation by placement of an amniotic constrictor and cellophane banding can be practised.
WHY CHOOSE IMPROVE?

GENERAL PRACTITIONER ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

- Medicine or Surgery PgC Award
  - Postgraduate Certificate
  - 60 Academic Credits

- Clinical PgC Award
  - Postgraduate Certificate
  - 60 Academic Credits

- Complete assessments
  - Case report (2,500 words)
  - Case diary (15 x 100 word peer reviewed logs assessed by HAU)
  - Case studies (5 x 500 - 1000 words)
  - Reflective essay (assessed by HAU)
  - Multiple choice questions examination

- ESVPS
- Advance your diagnostic knowledge and skills
  - with leading European Veterinary Specialists

The GPAdvCert in Small Animal Medicine is delivered over 15 modules (3 x 5 day blocks) across three state-of-the-art European training centres, Porto, Portugal, Berlin, Germany and Sheffield, UK.

Our training centres have the latest purpose built wet-lab facilities which reflect the veterinary surgical environment. With surgical stations, operating theatre lighting and a wide choice of surgical equipment, delegates are able to practise skills under the direction of leading specialists. Each training module will be supported by two orthopaedic specialists.

LOCATIONS AND TRAINING VENUES

- BERLIN, GERMANY
- PORTO, PORTUGAL
- SHEFFIELD, UK

The GPAdvCert in Soft Tissue Surgery is delivered over 14 modules across three state-of-the-art European practical centres, Cremona (Italy), Madrid (Spain) and Sheffield (UK).

Our training centres have the latest purpose built wet-lab facilities which reflect the veterinary surgical environment. With surgical stations, operating theatre lighting and a wide choice of surgical equipment, delegates are able to practise skills under the direction of leading specialists. Each training module will be supported by two soft tissue surgery specialists.

STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING FACILITIES

- SHEFFIELD - UK
- CREMONA - ITALY
- MADRID - SPAIN

The PgD is a minimum of 120 Academic Credits

KEY:

- Improve International
- ESVPS
- Harper Adams University
Testimonial

What you can expect from Improve International

Dr Graeme McKeown
BSc. Hon. BVM&S PG C. SAM PG C. SA SG. PG C. PV C. VPS. CertAVP. PG D. AVPS. MRCVS

Dr Graeme McKeown has become the first veterinary surgeon in the UK to be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Practice Sciences (PgD AVPS). Dr McKeown, who owns practices in Hove and Tunbridge Wells, was one of a number of Postgraduate awardees to receive their awards at a ceremony at Harper Adams University on Tuesday 25 April 2017.

The Postgraduate Diploma is in association with our assessment partners – the European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS) and Harper Adams University. It offers an opportunity for veterinary surgeons to achieve a higher level of qualification, which recognises achievement in one or more areas of clinical interest, whilst developing their research skills in readiness for a vocationally relevant investigation, which adds to the scientific evidence base.

Commenting on his achievement he said: “I embarked on Improve’s Postgraduate Diploma as I was keen to deepen my knowledge and expand my skills following completion of the Postgraduate Certificates (PgC) in both Small Animal Medicine and Small Animal Surgery.

Why Choose Improve?

Established
Since 1998 we have been leading the way forward with veterinary CPD

World-class
We have world-class speakers, delivering the academic syllabus whilst ensuring content is relevant to practice

Worldwide
Now operating in over 20 countries worldwide

Originators
We are the originators of modular CPD for vets, and we are still a company which is run by vets for vets

Over 3,000
Our alumni include thousands of vets who have benefited from participating in structured modular programmes

Experienced
Our Programme Tutor provides learning support throughout your chosen programme

Accredited
Postgraduate programmes accredited by the European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS) and validated by Harper Adams University (HAU)

State-of-the-art
Practical training centres which enable delegates to get hands-on with a variety of procedures

Advanced
With access to leading specialists enhance your knowledge and skills with complex cases. Reduce referrals and retain higher levels of income for your practice
OUR PARTNERS

Working with us to ensure the highest academic standards

Harper Adams University (HAU)
A rigorous validation process and the on-going involvement of HAU in our PgC programmes ensures teaching elements and examination processes meet the highest academic standards.

Founded in 1901, Harper Adams has a long, proud tradition of the highest educational standards, and is widely recognised for the quality of its education. Named University College of the Year six years in a row, HAU was placed within the UK’s top 10 higher education institutions, gaining full university status in 2012.

European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS)
ESVPS is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the provision of high quality, attainable qualifications for the veterinary profession on a worldwide basis.

ESVPS was established in 2003 by a group of like-minded veterinary surgeons with the principle objective of providing attainable, balanced qualifications within the busy practice setting. ESVPS has over 15 years’ experience in the provision of veterinary postgraduate assessments, awards and veterinary course accreditation, with over 3,800 vets and vet nurses awarded a veterinary postgraduate qualification internationally.

Pricing

GENERAL PRACTITIONER ADVANCED CERTIFICATE
SOFT TISSUE SURGERY

Payment Options

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Payment terms & conditions

- A non-refundable initial payment of £995.00 is due on registration in order to secure the booking. Deposits can be paid by credit card or bank transfer.
- Full payment to be made by BACS or credit card within 30 days of the deposit payment and prior to the programme start date in order to be eligible for the discounted rate.
- Direct debit plans are administered and collected on our behalf by GoCardless Ltd.
- If paying by direct debit we must receive the first payment prior to the course commencing.
- You will be charged VAT by default. If you are part of an EU country, outside of the UK and you have a valid intra-community VAT number the invoice will be exempt of VAT.

*The course fee includes all the ESVPS examination fees for existing GPCert holders and 40 university credits (20 ECTS) once you have passed all ESVPS and HAU components (case report, MCQ exam, case diary and reflective essay).
Ready to take that next step?

REGISTERING IS EASY...

How to Register

01793 759 159
Speak directly with our team who can register you over the phone

enquiries@improveinternational.com
Email us stating your interest in your chosen courses, be sure to leave your contact details and we will get back to you

improveinternational.com
Visit our website, click on your chosen course and then the ‘book now’ button to fill in the short online form

Registration terms & conditions
Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Where all available places are full, applicants will be offered first refusal for the next available date. Confirmation and enrolment details will be sent to confirm booking.