The diagnosis and management of skin disease represents a major component of small animal practice.

Through lectures, case discussions and practical sessions, this modular programme will enable you to learn how to approach the dog, cat and exotic patient presenting with the various manifestations of skin disease in a logical and scientific manner.

**Get the most out of this programme and your CPD**

**Extend your Clinical Knowledge and Skills**

Want to advance your knowledge and skills in a specific area? Simply take one of the single or paired modules in your area of interest.

**Achieve a General Practitioner Certificate (GPCert)**

Complete the full one year programme (all modules) and achieve the GPCert and attain 40 academic credits at Masters Level 7.

**Achieve a Postgraduate Certificate (PgC)**

Continue to a PgC (60 academic credits), which combines the GPCert clinical studies with reflective practice. The Advanced Practitioner Module is 20 academic credits at Masters Level 7 and delivered by Harper Adams University.

**Apply for Advanced Practitioner Status**

After completing your Postgraduate Certificate you can apply for the RCVS Advanced Practitioner Status. Subject to meeting all of the other entry requirements set out by RCVS in the Applicant Guidance Notes.
Taught Modules

**01: 🤸‍♂️ Anatomy and Physiology of the Skin and Cutaneous Pathological Processes**
- Compare gross and histological anatomy of the skin of companion animals
- Have an understanding of the function and physiology of skin of companion animals
- Understand the pathological processes occurring in skin disease
- Have 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
- Understand the skin response to insults including physical, chemical and microbiological
- The pathogenesis of skin neoplasia

**02: ⚒️ Clinical Examination and History: Essential Diagnostic Techniques**
- Understand clinical history taking and its interpretation in the diagnosis of skin disease
- Perform a general clinical examination
- Perform a detailed examination of the skin
- Have an ability to accurately describe skin lesions
- Understand the key diagnostic tests and their use
- Understand the diagnosis and management of common skin diseases
- Understand the complications encountered during therapy, their prevention and management
- Know the principles of the collection of samples from the skin relating to skin diseases and interpretation
- Know how to collect samples for microbiology – skin scrapings, hairs, acetate strips and impression smears
- Understand the use of intradermal skin testing and serology in the diagnosis of allergy

**03: 🧪 Microscopy**
- Understand the use of clinical chemistry in the diagnosis of skin disease
- Know the basic cytology of samples collected from the skin including masses and discharging sinuses
- Understand biopsy of skin and skin mass

**Laboratory Diagnosis and Clinical Pathology**
- Understand skin scrapings, hair examination, acetate strip examination, and impression smears
- Sampling techniques (including biopsies), sample processing, storage and recording
- Understand the basic cytology of samples collected from the skin including masses and discharging sinuses
- Interpret the clinical laboratory medicine information in relation to skin disease, including: haematology, biochemistry and endocrine tests, fluid and electrolyte disorders and cytology
- Know the diagnostic tests for infectious diseases – techniques and interpretation (including viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases)
Taught Modules

04: 
**General Conditions Commonly Found in Dermatology - Alopecia, Keratinization Disorders and Pigment Changes**

- Have an understanding of the principles of the use of pattern analysis by histopathologists in dermatohistopathology as it relates to disease pathogenesis and diagnosis
- Interpret histopathology reports
- This module includes a practical component in the laboratory preparing and interpreting slides

- 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

**Infectious Diseases and Preventative Healthcare**

- Know the clinical pathology of the major bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases affecting the skin of companion animals in the UK and Europe
- Have an awareness of diseases that may be imported by pets travelling from abroad
- Understand zoonosis and its health and safety concerns and precautions

05: 
**Allergic Skin Disease**

- Have an understanding of the immune system and immune response by the skin
- Understand flea and parasite allergies, atopic dermatitis, food and other hypersensitivities
- The underlying pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnostics and treatment options
- Understand the use of combination therapy in atopic dermatitis

06: 
**Diseases of the Feet, Nails, Anal Sacs and Ears**

- 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
## Taught Modules

### 08: Neoplasia
- Appreciate the biology of tumours
- Recognise common neoplastic presentations - localised, diffuse and systemic
- Have an understanding of the following types of neoplasia of skin structures: benign, malignant, mast cell tumours, lymphoma, squamous cell carcinoma, mammary tumours
- Know the neoplasia of other structures with involvement of the skin e.g. 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 e.g. Autoimmune diseases
- Understand the treatment options available medication / chemotherapy and the prognosis for different neoplasms

### 09: Nutritional, Metabolic, Paraneoplastic, Congenital-Hereditary Skin Disease and Miscellaneous Skin Diseases
- 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: Exotic Animal Dermatology
- 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

### 11: Autoimmune Skin Disease
- 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

### 12: Dermatological Manifestations of Endocrine Disease
- 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 diseases
- Recognise iatrogenic endocrine disease
Taught Modules

13: 🎓
The Pharmacy & Therapeutics

- 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

14: 🎓
Wound Management & Surgery

- Overview of wounds and wound healing (Dressings / topical treatment options)
- Medical and surgical management of wounds
- Anal sacs surgery
- Principles of ear surgery (which techniques and when)
- Pedal surgery (e.g podoplasty, surgery of the digital pads)

Additional Information
For further programme information and detail on pricing and enrolment please see our downloadable guides online:
www.improveinternational.com
### Payment terms & conditions

1. A non-refundable initial payment of £924.00 is due on registration in order to secure the booking. This can be paid by BACS or credit card.
2. Initial payment to be made by BACS or credit card within 30 days of the initial payment in order to be eligible for the discounted rate, (for payment in full).
3. Direct debit plans are administered and collected on our behalf by Animal Healthcare Limited.
4. Please contact us for pricing relating to corporate veterinary groups and multiple discounts and pricing.
5. Individual and Paired Module Pricing shown above does not include the exam fees of Harper Adams University and ESVPS.
6. If paying by direct debit we must receive the first payment prior to the course commencing.

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### Pricing Table

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*Exam fee is included.

For those individuals continuing to PgC, pending validation, the tuition fee for the Advanced Practitioner Module is £1,250 payable to Harper Adams University.