

Agenda for the meeting to be held on 17 September 2024 at the Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN, 10am.

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Education Committee minutes Minutes of meeting held on 21 May 2024	Paper attached
4.	Matters arising	
5.	Education Department update	Oral report
6.	Primary Qualifications Subcommittee (PQSC) a) Minutes of the PQSC meetings held on 12 th June and 9 th August 2024 b) Accreditation Standards: Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) differences c) Australasian Veterinary School Visits 2025 d) St George's University School of Veterinary Medicine update e) University College Dublin, accreditation panel member list	Paper attached Paper attached Paper attached Paper attached
7.	Appeals process and policy	Paper attached
8.	CPD and VetGDP a) Minutes of the CPD Policy and Compliance subcommittee meeting held on the 25 June 2024 b) Terms of Reference for the 'CPD and VetGDP Engagement group' and CPD and VetGDP Compliance subcommittee c) Correspondence a from member regarding VetGDP d) Marketing of 1CPD and VetGDP	Paper attached Paper attached Paper attached Oral report
9.	Veterinary Clinical Career Pathways (VCCP) a) Minutes of the Veterinary Clinical Career Pathways Working Group meeting held on the 16 July 2024 b) Report from the first two VCCP stakeholder events	Paper attached Paper attached
10.	CertAVP Subcommittee a) Minutes from the meeting of the CertAVP subcommittee on the 24 June 2024	Paper attached

11.	VN Education Committee Update	Oral report
12.	Statutory Membership Examination (SME) a) SME Update OSCEs b) Statutory Instrument update c) 2025 Statutory Membership Exam (SME) Guidance	Oral report Oral report Paper attached
13.	Specialists a) List of specialists b) Amendments to the RCVS Specialists Information and Application Pack	Paper attached Paper attached
14.	EMS hub materials	Paper Attached
15.	Risk register a) Items to add to the Risk Register	Paper attached
16.	AOB	
17.	Date of next meeting	19 November Remote 9.30am start

Britta Crawford
Committee Secretary
September 2024
b.crawford@rcvs.org.uk
020 7202 0777

Education Committee (EC) Membership From July 2024

Secretary: Britta Crawford

(0207 202 0777, b.crawford@rcvs.org.uk)

Bennett S	Council member
Calow AL	Council member
Howarth SD	Council member/VN Council
Hutchinson T	Council member
Law R	Student member
Mclinden L	Student member
McLaughlin C	Lay member
Jones M	Council member
Ormandy E	External member,
Parkin TDH #	Council member
Reid SWJ	External member, educationalist

#Chair

Observers (non-voting)

Officer: Paterson S

Chairs of Subcommittees and Working Parties that report to Education Committee:

Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice Subcommittee	Calow AL
Panel of Assessors for Advanced Practitioner Status	Hutchinson T
Primary Qualifications Subcommittee	Whiting M
Specialist Recognition Subcommittee	Barrett D
Statutory Membership Examination Board	McLaughlan C
VetGDP & CPD Compliance Subcommittee	Paterson S
VetGDP & CPD Engagement Subcommittee	Cook O

Education Committee Terms of Reference

From the Scheme of delegation from the RCVS Council to committees 24 June 2024

The Education Committee shall set the policy for undergraduate and postgraduate education and training of veterinary surgeons and determine the requirements for those seeking registration, for the award of qualifications under the Charter, for continuing professional development, and for recognition as RCVS Advanced Practitioner and RCVS Specialist.

Under normal circumstances Council members will form the majority on non-statutory committees, but on Education Committee (and the Primary Qualifications Subcommittee (PQSC)) a minimum of one third and a maximum of one half of members will be co-opted external members with education expertise, for example, Heads of the Veterinary Schools or other veterinary school staff members. Two students will also sit on the Education Committee (and two on PQSC). In addition, the Chairs of the Education Subcommittees and a member of the Officer Team will sit as non-voting observers.

The Committee shall develop and keep under review education and training requirements for registration, and in particular shall:

- a. Define Day-One Competences and advise on the content of the veterinary undergraduate curriculum;
- b. Oversee the approval process and ongoing monitoring of veterinary degrees and international recognition agreements, considering subcommittee reports on appointment of accreditation panel members, accreditation event reports, follow-up reports and annual monitoring reports from veterinary schools, subcommittee reports on overseas degrees from other accrediting bodies or the College, and subcommittee reports on operation of the statutory membership examination; and,
- c. Make recommendations to Council on any change in approved status concerning registrable degrees, on the regulations governing the statutory membership examination and, on the regulations, governing practice by students.

The Committee shall develop and keep under review policy for continuing professional development, revalidation of Advanced Practitioner and Specialist status, and postgraduate training and qualifications, and in particular shall:

- a. Define Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) for, and monitor, the VetGDP;
- b. Set the requirements for and monitor continuing professional development within the profession;
- c. Develop and maintain a framework of College postgraduate awards, receiving reports from subcommittees on the standards for College-awarded certificates and fellowships by thesis, examinations and accreditation of other recognised postgraduate qualifications as part of the framework;

- d. Define the requirements for RCVS Advanced Practitioner and RCVS Specialist status, receiving reports from subcommittees on the maintenance of lists for Advanced Practitioners and Specialists; and,
- e. Recommend to Council amendments to the certificate rules.

The Committee shall recommend fees to the Finance and Resources Committee for all related activities, for example, application and annual fees for Advanced Practitioners and Specialists, together with reviewer remuneration; fees for Statutory Membership exam candidates and remuneration for examiners; remuneration for accreditation panel members and reviewers of Advanced Practitioners and Specialist applications.

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	17 September 2024
Title	Education Committee Minutes 21 May 2024
Summary	Education Committee Minutes 21 May 2024
Decisions required	None to note
Attachments	None
Author	Britta Crawford Senior Education officer b.crawford@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0777

Classifications		
Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Paper	Unclassified	
Appendix	Confidential	

Minutes of Education Committee (EC) meeting held via Teams on 21 May 2024

EC Members:

Miss A Bradbury	Student Member
Dr A L Calow	RCVS Council Member & Chair of CertAVP Subcommittee
Ms L Ford	RCVS Council Member & Chair of CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee
Mrs S D Howarth	RCVS Council & VN Council Member
Mr T Hutchinson	RCVS Council Member
Dr M Jones	RCVS Council Member
Professor T D H Parkin	RCVS Council Member & Chair of Specialist Recognition Subcommittee
Professor S W J Reid*	External Member & Educationalist
Professor S M Rhind	External Member & Educationalist
Dr K A Richards#	RCVS Council Member & Chair
Mr L McLinden	Student Member

Chairs of Education Subcommittees and Working Parties that report to EC:

Dr M Whiting	PQSC
Professor S May	Panel of Assessors for Advanced Practitioner Status
Dr S Paterson	VetGDP Subcommittee
Mrs C-L McLaughlan	SME Board
Dr Melissa Donald*	Officer Team member as observer

*Denotes absence, #Denotes Chair of this meeting,

In attendance:

Ms B Crawford	Senior Education Officer
Ms C Hobson	Examination manager
Ms L Hogg	Senior Education Officer
Ms C Holliday	Senior Education Officer
Ms L Lockett	CEO

Mr J Nicholls	Lead for Undergraduate Education
Dr L Prescott-Clements	Director of Education
Ms Jenny Soreskog-Turp	Lead for Postgraduate Education
Mr K Thakrar*	Education Officer
Ms R Smith	Education Officer
Ms K Williams	Education Quality Improvement Manager

Welcome and apologies for absence

1. Professor Reid and Dr Donald had sent their apologies.

Declarations of interest

2. Members of the committee introduced themselves and indicated their conflicts of interest. Professor May declared that he has retired from his position at RVC, Professor Parkin declared that he has been elected to the board of directors for AAVMC, Dr Richards that she has been appointed an honorary fellow of SRUC and Mr Hutchinson declared that his practice is part of Surrey University distributed model.

Education committee minutes

3. The minutes of the meeting held on the 27 February 2024 were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

4. Actions from the previous meeting had been completed or are on the agenda for discussion at the meeting. Dr Calow asked about the CPD and reflection requirements for Specialists that was brought up at the last meeting. This had been discussed with the Chair of the Specialist subcommittee, Mr Parkin, and it had been agreed that Specialists should cover 250 hours of CPD over 5 years whilst also keeping to the standard RCVS requirement of 35 per year and reflection on those hours.

Education Department Update

5. Dr Prescott-Clements gave an update to the committee on the work of the Education Department. The committee heard that the RCVS no longer needed to work with the Refugee Council in order to fund refuges SME fees as it is now possible to provide the financial support through RCVS internal processes.
6. Dr Prescott-Clements reported that the EMS database development was progressing to schedule and was currently being internally tested, with a view to some external testing within the next couple of weeks. Work had also begun on the 'EMS hub', which would be an online resource for different stakeholders (students, providers and schools) around EMS good

practice. Content included guidance on how student or provider complaints during / following an EMS placement could be handled. Discussions had also taken place with the National Farmers Union to discuss this area in relation to AHEMS, and they had indicated they were keen to work with the Association of Veterinary Students to create a better understanding of what was required by both Veterinary students and their EMS hosts.

7. The Committee heard that members of the Education Department had attended the EBMA conference in Plymouth. Dr Prescott-Clements had given a presentation and a workshop on Entrustable Professional Activities which was very well received. The department had also visited the Vet Schools to talk to final Year students about VetGDP.

Strategy Panning Session

8. The CEO gave a presentation on the strategic priorities of the RCVS with regard to the development of the new 5-year RCVS strategic plan. The Committee split into break out rooms to discuss:
 - Tools: What special tools/resources/leverage does EC have
 - Action: What can EC do to support positive change
 - Impact: What would good look like for EC at the end of 2030
9. Notes from the discussions would be passed back to Ms Lockett to feed into ideas for the new strategic plan.

PQSC

Minutes of the meetings held on 17 April 2024

10. Dr Whiting presented the minutes of the meeting. The Committee was informed that a letter had been sent to SGU regarding its voluntary de-accreditation, along with the recommendations of EC. PQSC had discussed the school's annual monitoring reports and they have been contacted with feedback. Responses from the schools will be discussed by PQSC at their next meeting in August. One school had requested that PQSC provide further feedback on the progress made towards meeting the recommendations and suggestions outlined in their report. However, as PQSC had already provided initial feedback, it was agreed that, so as not to set a precedent, feedback would be limited to annual monitoring reports.

University of Surrey, School of Veterinary Medicine focused revisit report

11. The committee was presented with the focused revisit report for the University of Surrey, School of Veterinary Medicine. Members heard that in March 2021, a virtual accreditation visit to the school was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. Following this virtual visitation, the school was granted the status of "Accreditation for a shorter period" for a period of 2 years for the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Science (BVMSci) programme, with a focused in-person revisit to occur in 2023, to consider the sustainability of the programme with increasing student numbers, staff workload and assessment validity, along with the school's progress with addressing the suggestions and recommendations from the visitation report. The focused

revisit took place on 5 October 2023, using the 2017 RCVS standards. At the April PQSC meeting, the report and Dean's response was presented to the committee for review and recommendation to the Education Committee on the accreditation status for the programme.

12. Professor Parkin had been the visitation chair and was present at EC to answer any questions which might arise. Professor May queried the preparation for anaesthesia training in the report and questioned its sufficiency. It was confirmed that this referred to the preparation students received before going out on final year rotations. It had been included as a follow up to a specific question and was not a report of all anaesthesia training.
13. PQSC recommended that the BVMSci at Surrey School of Veterinary Medicine should have accreditation for the remainder of their cycle (next visit will be due in 2028 using the 2023 RCVS standards) subject to satisfactory annual monitoring. Education Committee agreed with this recommendation.

ACTION: Inform the University of Surrey, School of Veterinary Medicine that accreditation has been awarded for the remainder of their cycle.

[University of Adelaide, School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, accreditation visit report](#)

14. The accreditation event for University of Adelaide, School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, took place between 8-13 October 2023 with visitors from the RCVS and AVBC present. The visit took place using the 2023 RCVS accreditation standards. The report and Dean's response were presented to PQSC for review at their April meeting, and after detailed discussions the committee had recommended to EC that the school be awarded 'accreditation for a shorter period' with the school being required to provide evidence of progress against the recommendations / suggestions in one year, with a full revisit taking place in two years.
15. Professor Herrtage, who had been on the visitation team, joined the meeting to answer any questions which might arise. Significant concerns had been identified by the panel in multiple domains, including low staff numbers and teaching quality, which the committee felt may be the result of moving to a distributed model too quickly. EC questioned whether the School had the support of the university. Professor Herrtage felt that they did. The Committee was informed that there was a new Dean, who had his own ambitions for change and was pleased to have autonomy over the use of funds to support the education needs of the students.
16. EC agreed with PQSC's recommendation to award accreditation for a shorter period with a visit taking place across all standards in two years, with a one-year deadline to see evidence of progress. Should sufficient evidence of improvement not be realised within 1 year, there was the potential for the decision to be revisited and consideration of the classification 'conditional accreditation' to be made at that point. Accreditation decisions are independent for each agency and other international accreditors would be consulted about a joint visit, where appropriate, once they have reached their own decisions.

ACTION: Inform the University of Adelaide, School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences that they have been awarded accreditation for a shorter period, with a one-year deadline to see evidence against progress made, and a full revisit taking place in two years.

[James Cook University School of Veterinary Sciences, accreditation visit report](#)

17. The accreditation event for James Cook University, School of Veterinary Sciences took place between 10 – 15 September 2023 with visitors from the RCVS and AVBC present. The visit took place using the 2023 RCVS accreditation standards. The report and Dean’s response were presented to PQSC for review, and the committee was invited to make a recommendation to EC on the accreditation status for the programme.
18. The RCVS representative on the visitation, Dr Black, had been asked to attend the EC meeting to answer questions about the visit but was not available. The committee discussed the concerns over high attrition rates, a lack of progress in curriculum review and a lack of attention to exam standard setting. There had also been some concerns about how live animals were being used in teaching, although it was acknowledged that this was acceptable under Australian law. However, students should also understand the methods used in the UK.
19. EC agreed with the recommendation of PQSC that the programme should be awarded accreditation for a shorter period with a full revisit taking place across all standards in two years, with a one-year deadline to see evidence of progress. Should sufficient evidence of improvement not be realised within 1 year, there was the potential for the Vet School to be moved to conditional accreditation at that point.
20. Dr Prescott-Clements asked the Committee to consider when it might be appropriate to give an outcome of “Conditional Accreditation” and whether they were content with the current approach or if this classification should be used more. Education Committee agreed that the correct accreditation statuses had been awarded with the circumstances given but also agreed that a case study of when conditional accreditation might be used would be a useful addition for committee member training.

Action: Inform James Cook University, School of Veterinary Sciences that they have been awarded accreditation for a shorter period, with a one-year deadline to see evidence against progress made, and a full revisit taking place in two years

Action: Education Department to develop case studies to help the committee agree correct accreditation status

[Joint Accreditation Rubric with the International Accreditors Working Group \(IAWG\)](#)

21. The Committee heard that a sub-group of representatives from the IAWG, comprising the RCVS, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC), have been meeting to explore how to better facilitate joint visitations. With the implementation of the new RCVS (2023) and AVBC (2024) standards, there is now a

degree of divergence from AVMA standards, where previously standards across all agencies were more aligned. Since the documentation used to facilitate the panel on visitations (the “rubric”) has had to adapt to all three agency’s requirements, it has become complicated to use.

22. The IAWG sub-group has been meeting to agree on documentation which attempts to simplify the process of using three different sets of accreditation standards, and aims to provide panel members with a succinct method of ensuring that all standards have been explored during an event. Before work progresses on the remaining standards/domains, it has been agreed to take the work completed thus far back to parent organisations for comment and approval.
23. The Committee were reassured that any rubric would be used as a tool for international visitors to ensure that nothing was missed on the visitation and the full RCVS Standards would be used by the RCVS visitor to assure the quality of the programme.

ACTION: Mr Nicholls to feed back to IAWG.

Advanced Practitioner (AP) Status

Approval of Qualifications

24. Professor May asked the Committee to approve the “University of Central Lancashire, postgraduate certificate in Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery” and the “ESAVS (University of Luxembourg) Certificate of Small Animal Veterinary Practice (Neurology)” as eligible for application for AP status in small animal surgery. Education Committee agreed.

ACTION: Education department to update AP Qualification list

CPD

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2024

25. Ms Ford presented the minutes of the meeting to the Committee, which were noted.

Compliance

26. Ms Ford gave an overview of CPD compliance with the requirement for 2023 and noted that 88% of Veterinary surgeons are compliant with the hour requirement and 84% were fully compliant (had recorded enough hours and reflected on them), which was comparable to previous years. However, this did still mean that over 3000 vets were not compliant with a further 1000 who had not reflected. Non-compliant members would be reminded to update their records and if they were still non-compliant the case may be referred to the Professional Conduct department.

Specialist Subcommittee

List of specialists

27. Education Committee was presented with a list of specialists updated since the last meeting. The committee approved the list.

CertAVP Subcommittee

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2024

28. Dr Calow presented the minutes of the meeting. The main focus of the meeting had been on the Veterinary Clinical Practice (VPC) synoptic exam. The Committee was asked to contact Ms Hogg with any suggestions for examiners for this designation.

ACTION: Committee members to contact Ms Hogg if they have suggestions for a synoptic CertAVP examiner for VPC.

Compensation in synoptic exam cases

29. The Committee heard that the CertAVP subcommittee had discussed the policy of whether to allow compensation within and across exam cases in CertAVP synoptic exams. The subcommittee agreed to allow compensation across the five constructs *within* a case but not compensation across the three cases. Education Committee agreed with this decision.

ACTION: Education Department to update CertAVP exam policy and guidance regarding compensation across constructs.

VetGDP Subcommittee

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024

30. Dr Paterson presented the minutes of the meeting, highlighting the focus on communications and that whilst there were some graduates and VetGDP Advisers who were not engaging with the VetGDP these were in the minority. The Committee noted the minutes.

Veterinary Clinical Career Pathways (VCCP)

31. Unfortunately, the new chair of the VCCP working group, Professor Nick Cooper, was unable to attend the meeting to present the minutes due to conflicting schedules but he will hopefully attend the next meeting. Ms Soreskog-Turp presented the minutes from the working group meeting where they had discussed the interviews for the two ITTs and the aims and the content for the focus groups. EC heard that Hull York Medical School had been appointed to deliver research for workstream 1 – Curriculum Development for Veterinary General Practice (GP) Specialty Training and the Work Psychology Group for workstream 3 - Developing Flexible Routes for Specialist Training.
32. Ms Soreskog-Turp continued to feedback on the first focus group session held in London, where 60 people had attended to discuss the VCCP in terms of purpose, risk, content, learning environment and supervision. There were some lively discussions for and against the programme with some having difficulty understanding how one could be a specialist generalist. The next focus group is planned for 20th June in Edinburgh and a full report of both focus groups will be presented to the VCCP WG and Education Committee.

Statutory Membership Exam (SME)

SME Update

33. Dr McLaughlan, Chair of the exam board, introduced the update with grateful thanks to Ms Hobson, who had managed the complicated exam sessions, including vastly increased numbers with enormous capability and professionalism.
34. Ms Hobson introduced the paper and talked the Committee through the statistics. The Committee was informed that the new 'TestReach' package for remote exam access and invigilation had worked well with good support and customer service from the provider.

35. Plans were in place for the OSCEs at Harper Adams, who had been very helpful in accommodating the larger than expected numbers.

Fellowship by thesis extension request

36. Following a period of ill health a Fellowship candidate, who is one of only two remaining on the old system, has requested an extension for resubmission of his thesis until December 2024. The other candidate is expected to submit in September. Given the medical grounds the Education Committee agreed to the extension.

ACTION: Education Department to inform candidate

Risk Register

37. EC asked that the IAWG work should be added to the risk register or encapsulated in another area. The Committee also asked for it to be checked that the hard stop on automatic membership with EAEVE accreditation in under 5 years was included. It was also felt that rising numbers of SME candidates should be included.

Action: Education Department to update the risk register

AOB

38. Dr Richards thanked Professor May, at his final meeting, for all his contributions to Education Committee and the RCVS as a whole. Dr Richards also thanked the student member, Miss Bradbury, for their valuable contributions, as this was also their last meeting.
39. Ms Lockett thanked Dr Richards for her time as chair and all of her hard work in support of the Committee.

Date of the next meeting

40. The date of the next meeting is 17 September 2024 at 10am, in person in London (venue tbc).

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	17 September 2024
Title	Minutes of the CPD Policy and Compliance subcommittee meeting held on the 25 June 2024.
Summary	Minutes of the CPD Policy and Compliance subcommittee meeting held on the 25 June 2024.
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Author	Jenny Soreskog-Turp Lead for Postgraduate Education j.soreskog-turp@rcvs.org.uk 020 7202 0701

Classifications		
Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Paper	Unclassified	N/A

¹ Classifications explained	
Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
Confidential	Temporarily available only to Council Members, non-Council members of the relevant committee, sub-committee, working party or Board and not for dissemination outside that group unless and until the relevant

	committee or Council has given approval for public discussion, consultation or publication.
Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

²Classification rationales

Confidential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others 2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation 3. To protect commercially sensitive information 4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS
Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation

CPD Policy and Compliance sub-committee Notes of the meeting held on 25 June 2024

Present:	Linda Ford	Chair
	Jessica Beckett	
	Claire Bloor	
	*Danny Chamber	
	Donna Lewis	
	Stephen May	
	Stephanie Richardson	
	*Alison Reid	
	Holly Witchell	
	James Wood	

*absent

In attendance:	Joanne Stetzel	Head of Marketing and Digital Communications
	Jenny Soreskog-Turp	Lead for Postgraduate Education
	Rebecca Smith	Education Officer

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Mr Chambers and Ms Reid had sent their apologies.

Minutes of the meeting on the 15 April 2024

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2024 were received and approved as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising

3. Most actions from previous meeting were covered by the agenda. Regarding the possibility of withholding letters of good standing for non-compliant registrants, the committee heard that advice had been sought from the Registrar who explained that it is not possible to refuse to issue a letter of good standing to non-compliant members unless they have been through the Disciplinary Committee. The committee raised an alternative suggestion that RCVS could instead review the wording of the letter to state if they are CPD compliant.

Action: Education team to explore whether RCVS could review wording of letter of good standing

4. The committee received an update as to progress by the Education team in referring non-compliant members who received communications over the last year to the Professional Conduct team.

Comms Update and 1CPD Data Report

5. The committee received the data report about the demographics of non-compliant members.
6. Ms Stetzel provided an update about how the comms plan has affected compliance rates. The data demonstrates that members are aware of 1CPD and that they know they must record their CPD on the 1CPD platform. The data shows that most members are aware of the reflection requirement, however, there is still some confusion around how to reflect on CPD.
7. The data report showed that the comms campaign did fulfil its objectives of promoting CPD and reflection using 1CPD, however, there are some opportunities to encourage a better level of compliance, and a better understanding around the reflection requirement.
8. There was a suggestion that we need to continue to raise more awareness around what members are allowed to record, especially informal CPD, and further awareness of different approaches to record and reflect using 1CPD.
9. There was a further suggestion that we should promote informal CPD and workplace-based learning as there are research to show that formal CPD is often the less beneficial than interactive CPD that is directly related to your area of work.
10. It was acknowledged that as part of the comms campaign there have been several messages on social media about what 'counts' as CPD and the tools within 1CPD for four years, so continuing this approach may not be very effective. There was a comment that this would be especially ineffective for members who are not digitally engaged.
11. There was a suggestion that further messaging around what counts as CPD and the tools within the 1CPD platform could be done within the 1CPD platform instead.

1CPD Reminders

12. There were discussions around the automatic reminders that are sent out through 1CPD to remind members to record their activities and some members felt that the email reminders were sent out too early in the year, and that some members feel there are too many reminders.
13. The group agreed that changing the timing of the email reminders to a later point in the year would be beneficial. It was suggested that the first email reminder should be sent out in May, and then to increase the frequency of email reminders as the CPD year progresses.

Action: Education Department to liaise with developers regarding timing of reminders

14. The group agreed that members should not be able to opt out of email alerts related to non-compliance. There was some support for the suggestion that members could opt out of more general CPD reminders, however, overall it was felt that the general CPD reminders were having a positive effect on CPD compliance and it was therefore decided that members should not be able to opt out of any CPD reminder emails.
15. In light of recent feedback received from members, the group was asked to review whether email communications sent to members about CPD should be more formal, and more customised to each member.
16. The group agreed that it was not possible to send individually personalised email communications about CPD to every member, given the resources that this would require. The group discussed the possibility of changing the formatting of the emails, however, it was decided that it would be best to maintain the current format.
17. There was a discussion about the possibility of posting letters to members who appear to be digitally disengaged. It was agreed that posting letters to members who have not engaged with the 1CPD platform would be effective.

Action: Education team to explore the logistics around posting letters to members who have not engaged with the 1CPD platform.

18. There was a discussion around how best to reach members who are non-compliant for a previous CPD year, and members who have not engaged with CPD in the current CPD year. It was suggested that members who are non-compliant for a previous CPD year should receive communications that have a more serious tone, and members who have not engaged for the current CPD year should receive communications that are more light touch.
19. It was suggested that the possible level of segmentation within email communications should be explored with the IT team, i.e. if a member has recorded enough CPD hours but has not reflected, they could receive a specific message about completing their reflections.

Action: Comms team to discuss the possible level of segmentation in email communications with the IT team.

Committee Update

20. Ms Soreskog-Turp announced that there would be some restructuring of some of the committees, including those who oversee the work in the areas of CPD and VetGDP. It has been decided that CPD compliance and VetGDP compliance should be overseen by the same committee, so a new committee will be formed. Therefore, this would be the last meeting for the CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee. The group were thanked for their commitment and engagement.

AOB

21. There was no other business to discuss.

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	17 September 2024
Title	Terms of Reference for the 'CPD and VetGDP Engagement group' and the 'CPD and 'VetGDP Compliance subcommittee'
Summary	The paper describes the changes to the CPD and VetGDP committee structure and includes the terms of reference (ToR) for each committee.
Attachment	Annex A: ToR - CPD and VetGDP Engagement group Annex B – ToR - CPD and VetGDP Compliance subcommittee
Decisions required	Education Committee is asked to approve the terms of reference for the new CPD and VetGDP committees.
Author	Jenny Soreskog-Turp Lead for Postgraduate Education j.soreskog-turp@rcvs.org.uk

Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper/Annex	Unclassified	N/A

¹Classifications explained

Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
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Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation

Introduction

1. Continual professional development (CPD) and the Veterinary Graduate Development Programme (VetGDP) are both managed by the postgraduate education team at the RCVS. Both the CPD and VetGDP requirements are mandatory as part of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct.
2. Previously there was one committee that looked after each area: the CPD Policy and Compliance subcommittee and the VetGDP subcommittee. Both committees reported to Education Committee.

Changes to the Committee structure

3. The CPD and VetGDP subcommittees were discussing many of the same issues such as compliance and engagement and, after discussions with the professional conduct department, it was suggested that we should have one committee that is responsible for compliance and a separate committee responsible for policy and engagement. Terms of reference for each committee will be reviewed and approved by Education Committee and VN Council.
4. The new CPD and VetGDP Compliance subcommittee will be chaired by Dr Sue Paterson and as the committee will handle confidential information the members of the committee are RCVS or VN Council members. The subcommittee will be responsible for:
 - Develop and keep under review the RCVS CPD and VetGDP non-compliance policies and procedures
 - Monitor compliance with CPD and VetGDP
 - Decide on exemptions from the VetGDP
 - Oversee any applications from veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses to pause CPD.
 - Monitor and agree actions for CPD and VetGDP non-compliance cases
 - Decide when cases of non-compliance should be referred to the Professional Conduct Department.
5. The new CPD and VetGDP engagement group will be a committee with external members which will be chaired by Dr Olivia Cook and members include one appointed RVN, two appointed VetGDP peer-reviewers and an RVN, a VS and one new graduate appointed through applications from the profession. The group will:
 - Monitor, and make recommendations for, updates to the VetGDP and CPD policies and guidance documents
 - Receive and consider periodic quality assurance reports and advise action where appropriate
 - Monitor and review ways to improve engagement with VetGDP and CPD.
 - Monitor and review ways to improve engagement with 1CPD and the VetGDP e-portfolio.
 - Review and consider the communication plans for CPD and VetGDP.

- Oversee updates of the VetGDP Adviser and VetGDP peer-review training and guidance.

Decision

6. Education Committee is asked to approve the Terms of Reference for CPD and VetGDP Compliance subcommittee and the CPD and VetGDP engagement group (Annex A and Annex B).

VetGDP and CPD Engagement Group

Terms of Reference

1. VetGDP and CPD Engagement Group will report to Education Committee and Veterinary Nursing Council.
2. VetGDP and CPD Engagement Group is responsible for monitoring and reviewing policies and the overall engagement with CPD and VetGDP. It will:
 - Monitor and make recommendations for updates to the VetGDP and CPD policies and guidance documents
 - Receive and consider periodic quality assurance reports and to advise action where appropriate
 - Monitor and review ways to improve engagement with VetGDP and CPD.
 - Monitor and review ways to improve engagement with 1CPD and the VetGDP e-portfolio.
 - Review and consider the communication plans for CPD and VetGDP.
 - Oversee updates of the VetGDP Adviser and VetGDP peer-review training and guidance.

Membership

3. The group will consist of:
 - a) One RCVS council member as chair of the group
 - b) One appointed veterinary nurse
 - c) One RVN, one MRCVS and one new graduate appointed through applications from the profession.
 - d) Two VetGDP peer-reviewers
4. The subcommittee has seven members in total with a with a quorum of 50%
5. The length of service would normally be 3 years, however this is not prescriptive and longer terms can be allowed for continuity or consistency of the group membership.

Meetings

6. The group will meet at least twice a year. Meeting will be held virtually except for any exceptional circumstances when face to face meetings will be more beneficial.

Annex B**VetGDP and CPD Compliance Subcommittee****Terms of Reference**

1. VetGDP and CPD Compliance Subcommittee will report to Education Committee and Veterinary Nursing Council.
2. The subcommittee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the RCVS CPD and VetGDP compliance policies and make recommendations for changes to Education Committee and VN Council.
3. The subcommittee is responsible for the CPD/VetGDP non-compliance policies and procedures, and to make decisions on whether or not to refer individual cases of non-compliance or non-response to the Professional Conduct Department. The subcommittee will:
 - Develop and keep under review the RCVS CPD and VetGDP non-compliance policies and procedures
 - Monitor compliance with CPD and VetGDP
 - Decide on exemptions from the VetGDP
 - Oversee any applications from veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses to pause CPD.
 - Monitor and agree actions for CPD and VetGDP non-compliance cases
 - Decide when cases of non-compliance should be referred to the Professional Conduct Department.

Membership

4. The subcommittee will consist of:
 - a) One veterinary nurse and one lay member nominated by the Veterinary Nurses Council
 - b) Three veterinary surgeons and two lay members nominated by RCVS council.
5. The subcommittee has eight members in total with a with a quorum of 50% and at least one veterinary surgeon or one veterinary nurse must attend each meeting.
6. The length of service would normally be 3 years, however this is not prescriptive and longer terms can be allowed for continuity or consistency of the Subcommittee membership.

Meetings

7. The subcommittee will meet at least twice a year. Meeting will be held virtually except for any exceptional circumstances when face to face meetings will be more beneficial.

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	17 September 2024
Title	Minutes of the Veterinary Clinical Career Pathways Working Group meeting held on the 16 July 2024
Summary	Minutes of the Veterinary Clinical Career Pathways Working Group meeting held on the 16 July 2024
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Author	Jenny Soreskog-Turp Lead for Postgraduate Education j.soreskog-turp@rcvs.org.uk 020 7202 0701

Classifications		
Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Paper	Unclassified	N/A

¹ Classifications explained	
Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
Confidential	Temporarily available only to Council Members, non-Council members of the relevant committee, sub-committee, working party or Board and not for dissemination outside that group unless and until the relevant

	committee or Council has given approval for public discussion, consultation or publication.
Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

²Classification rationales

Confidential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others 2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation 3. To protect commercially sensitive information 4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS
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**Veterinary Clinical Career Pathways (VCCP) Working Group
Notes of the meeting held on 16 July 2024**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Present: | Nick Cooper
Heather Bacon
*Erin Burnett
Tim Charlesworth
Karen Coumbe
Eilidh Corr
Phil Cramp
John Fishwick
Emily Gascoigne
Jennifer Hammond
Peter O'Hagan
Aoife Reid
Adam Tjolle
Kirsty Young | Chair |
| In attendance: | Linda Prescott-Clements
Julie Dugmore
Jenny Soreskog-Turp | Director of Education
Director of Veterinary Nursing
Lead for Postgraduate Education |

*Absent

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Erin Burnett had sent her apologies.

Declarations of interest

2. There were no new declarations of interest.

Minutes from the meeting on the 20 March 2024

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2024 were received and approved as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising

4. At the last meeting the working group had asked for an update about the competition and markets authority (CMA) review and how it may impact the clinical career pathway project. Dr

Prescott-Clements told the working group that CMA had recently published their issue statement to explain their focus for the review. The statement is very high level so it is difficult to know exactly what they will look at, but their focus seems to be around transparency, contextualised care, the Veterinary Surgeons act and the legal framework for that. RCVS is working to provide the CMA with all the relevant information that they need. At the moment there was no reason to believe that the review would impact the Veterinary Clinical Career pathway (VCCP) work but the working group will be updated if further information is received.

Invitation to Tender (ITT) update

5. The working group received and noted the paper about the outcomes of the ITT interviews, which they had been informed of via email; Hull York Medical School had been appointed for the literature review for workstream 1 Curriculum Development for Veterinary General Practice (GP) Specialty Training and Work Psychology group for workstream 3 - Developing Flexible Routes for Specialist Training: A Rapid Review of Evidence.
6. The working group had reviewed both providers' search terms previously, but Hull York had submitted a document analysis with websites and information that they were going to include and asked the working group if there were any that they wished to add to the list. It was mentioned that it may be useful for them to look at the 'first 5' on the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) website, which covers support for early career General Practitioners (GPs). During the focus groups, members of the profession had also mentioned the Diploma in Bovine Reproduction and qualification offered by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP). All suggestions will be sent to Hull York Medical School.

Action: JST to send suggestion to Hull York

Advanced Practitioner (AP) Review

7. The working group received the paper about the Advanced Practitioner (AP) Review and noted the report was confidential.
8. The AP research was undertaken in 2019, and the focus groups conducted in 2021, but it was felt that the results were relevant to the working group as part of workstream 2 which is about improving the clarity of veterinary roles/statuses and names. The report is also useful as part of the other workstreams as the results had shown the frustration of APs about the lack of career options once they have received the status.
9. It was also noted that the report mentioned referrals, which had also been discussed at the focus group in Edinburgh and it was felt that the profession as well as the public needed more guidance about referrals – who should refer and to whom - which would be included in the final guidance report to explain each role and their scope.

Outcomes of the first two VCCP stakeholder events

10. Stakeholder engagement is a key part of all VCCP workstreams. Two focus group stakeholder events have been held so far, one in London and one in Edinburgh.

11. Professor Cooper attended the first focus group in London, and he felt that it went well with lots of useful and interesting discussions around the recognition of GPs and some useful discussion about clinical research in primary care as well as supervision and support during training. He felt that the day provided useful information in terms of starting to think about training content.
12. Dr Prescott-Clements reported that both focus group went well but at the first one there were more discussion on whether to introduce the new GP specialist role rather than contribute to the development of the content of the programme, which was the aim of the day. There were also discussions and concerns from GP vets with many years' worth of experience about how a new specialty training programme would impact them, and potentially undermine their value. Those concerns are valid, and we will consider them further when starting the implementation phase.
13. Dr Reid attended the second focus group in Edinburgh and her table was a good mix of experience including two GPs, there were some interesting discussions around topics that should be included in the curriculum such as care for different life stages and contextualised care but also the importance of primary care clinical research. In the afternoon there were discussions around flexible pathways to specialisation and they had some useful discussions with representatives from European Colleges to understand some of the issues. Re-introducing the RCVS diploma was suggested by several people at the event. She felt that it was a positive day with interesting discussions.
14. Professor Tjolle also attended part of the morning session, and he had some concerns in regard to members attending these events as we need to ensure that we receive feedback from students, new graduates and veterinary surgeons working in general practice as they are the ones that will be most affected by any new changes. The working group felt that it would be useful to have a breakdown of demographic attending the focus group so that we can ensure that all stakeholders are engaged.

Action: JST to keep notes of demographics for all stakeholder events

15. It was acknowledged that it is sometimes difficult to get practitioners to attend all day focus group so it was suggested that we should try to do shorter sessions, such as lunch and learn with different groups of stakeholders so that we can ensure that we gain a wide array of feedback. It was suggested that we can get employers, communities of vets and associations to help promote the sessions. The online sessions need to be advertised in advanced and be flexible in terms of timing to ensure that as many as possible can attend.
16. It was suggested for future in person focus groups that we should have one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland. Then next year consider one in West Midlands. The working group also suggested to hold some focus groups as part of the big conferences such as London Vet Show.

Action: JST to update comms plan in regard to stakeholder events.

Draft purpose statement

17. Following the feedback from the focus groups, Dr Prescott-Clements presented a draft purpose statement for specialist training in Primary Care which included a vision statement for the training, rationale, outcomes (qualities of intended graduates), and speciality specific capabilities.
18. The working group was impressed by the initial content of the statement and felt that it would be welcomed by practitioners. There were suggestions about reviewing some of the wording of the first pullet point in “qualities of the intended graduates” to ensure that it was inclusive for all vets with different level of experience. The group suggested that we may consider including commercial awareness or business skills, but also a focus on community, one health and environmental impact and sustainability.
19. The working group felt that the statement should focus on the positive value added to the practice rather than mention compensation and mistakes, so it was suggested to change the sentence to include commitment to good clinical governance and evidence-based medicine. It was also felt that decision making in face of uncertainty should be a focus of the programme as that is an essential skill for GPs. It was felt that we should focus on broad knowledge and skills of primary care and therefore not include specifics such as internal medicine. It also needs to ensure we include public health.
20. Dr Prescott-Clements welcomed the suggestions and will update the purpose statement for the next meeting.

Action: Update the purpose statement and circulate to group for feedback.

Any other business

21. The RCVS media and publications manger, Mr Luke Bishop, joined the meeting to discuss the preferred format of comms that we should focus on to inform the profession about the outcomes of the focus groups – it could be informal such as blogs with reflections from members of the working group or a news piece with outcomes and discussion.
22. The group felt that it would be important that we can reach practitioners with the outcomes but need to be careful so that it is clear that we are still engaging with stakeholders and listening to feedback as some have expressed concern that the pathways have already been agreed. It was felt that the draft purpose statement may help to provide structure and content to the news article but the comms for focus groups should be different. It would be useful if the news piece could still invite some feedback or invite members to register for the online focus groups.
23. It was suggested that we may create some polls that we can share in different social media channels, for example different areas of knowledge and skills for the training to focus on and ask practitioners to vote without inviting them to comment or feedback. It will provide some additional data of focus for the training.

Action: Update the VCCP comms plan to incorporate suggestions from the working group.

Next Meeting

24. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for the 18 September at 1 pm.

Jenny Soreskog-Turp

July 2024 j.soreskog-turp@rcvs.org.uk

Summary	
Meeting	Education Committee
Date	17 September 2024
Title	Minutes from the meeting of the CertAVP subcommittee on the 24 June 2024
Summary	Minutes from the meeting of the CertAVP subcommittee on the 24 June 2024
Decisions required	Education Committee to approve the new designation in Equine Behavioural medicine.
Attachments	None
Author	Laura Hogg Senior Education Officer L.hogg@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0736

Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper	Unclassified	

¹Classifications explained

Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
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²Classification rationales

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Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation

Minutes of the CertAVP Subcommittee meeting held on 24 June 2024

Present: Rob White*
James Horner*
Abbie Calow - Chair
Matt Jones*
Liz Chan
Ros Carslake
James Wood
Rachael Gregson

In Attendance Laura Hogg
Linda Prescott-Clements
Jenny Soreskog-Turp
Alyson Quieros
Gemma Pearson

*Absent

The meeting was held remotely by Microsoft Teams.

Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies were received from Rob White, Matt Jones and James Horner. Alyson Quieros attended the meeting in place of Rob White.

Declarations of interest

2. There were no new declarations of interest.

Minutes

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2024 were held as a true record.

Matters arising

4. All matters had been actioned or were on the agenda for discussion.
5. The subcommittee were informed that Education Committee had approved the subcommittee's recommendation to allow compensation within a case for the synoptic exams.
6. The subcommittee were notified that the Edinburgh CertAVP team were withdrawing from offering the Veterinary Cardiology modules and synoptic examination due to a limited number of candidates enrolling on the cardiology modules. Edinburgh will close registrations to any new applications to study Veterinary Cardiology. To wind down provision, the team will work with current enrolled candidates offering either a refund and withdrawal, or the option to undertake

examinations at the next available examination diet in 2024/5 and 2025/6. Examiners may be called upon should the RCVS require examiners to run the synoptic examination.

Edinburgh: Equine Behavioural medicine

7. Miss Gemma Pearson joined the meeting and introduced the paper. The proposal was for the creation of four new C modules and a new designation in equine behavioural medicine. Edinburgh have been teaching and running CPD courses in this area for several years. Miss Pearson explained that there has been a lot of interest and increased recognition in this area and felt there would be a good uptake of the modules. Of the four new modules proposed, three would be compulsory for the designation. The subcommittee pointed out that the modules combination document did not make this clear and it would need to be amended.
8. The subcommittee inquired whether the module C-E.4 Equine Neuromuscular, Behaviour and Special Senses had been considered for this designation. Miss Pearson explained that they had looked at this, but it did not have enough behaviour content to be included, although it could be taken as the 'free choice' module.
9. The subcommittee asked what the QA process would be for these modules, and how the modules would be checked to ensure the content was current. Miss Pearson explained that there were internal processes where module content would be reviewed annually and would be used for a maximum of five years before being re-written. The subcommittee asked if the student feedback would be made available, Edinburgh would look to this as there should be feedback already available to send over.
10. The subcommittee asked how the modules would be assessed, Miss Pearson mentioned that the assessment would vary slightly between candidates signed up to the taught course and those on the assessment only route. Should the modules be approved, an accreditation application form detailing the assessment strategy for each of the would be submitted.

**ACTION – updated module documents and combination to be sent through
ACTION – accreditation documents to be submitted**

11. Given that this was a relatively new area the subcommittee inquired into staffing for the running of the modules. Miss Pearson explained that the module content had already been created and the modules were already delivered so this would not be an issue. Given this was currently a rather small area, when a candidate should need to sit the synoptic exam, the subcommittee were informed that there were other veterinary behaviourists that would be able act as examiners.
12. The subcommittee were pleased to see some behaviour modules had been created, as there were currently no CertAVP behaviour modules.
13. The subcommittee approved the proposal for the addition of the new modules and designation and would await the updated module documents.

ACTION – Education Committee to approve the new designation

SACP and VPC synoptic examiners

14. The subcommittee were presented with names of synoptic examiners for the small animal clinical practice (SACP) and veterinary primary care (VPC) exams.
15. The new synoptic exam policy states '*The examiners will usually have a minimum of 3 years' experience at Specialist or Advanced Practitioner level in a relevant subject area*'. Although two of the examiners suggested were not listed as an Advanced Practitioner or Specialist, they were experienced and working in these areas.
16. The subcommittee first discussed the suggested SACP examiners. The subcommittee noted that both suggested examiners were very experienced in both teaching and examining across the broad SACP area and would both be appropriate as examiners in this area.
17. The subcommittee next discussed the examiner proposed for the VPC designation. The suggested examiner is working in this area and has experience in their current role in creating the types of questions the subcommittee had previously discussed for this synoptic exam. As this is a new designation there are not currently any Specialist or Advanced Practitioners listed in this area. The subcommittee were happy with the examiners experience in this area but felt they would be best paired with an experienced examiner. The subcommittee were informed that the examiner has previously sat and also observed a synoptic exam and had recently attended the examiner training session.
18. The subcommittee was informed that another examiner was still required in order to arrange the VPC exam and asked to send through suggested names of another examiner. Given the discussions this should be an examiner with more examining experience.
19. The subcommittee was happy to approve all three suggested examiners, based on their experience and qualifications in those areas.

ACTION – examiners to be informed

ACTION – subcommittee to send through names of suggested VPC examiner

Veterinary Public Health

20. The subcommittee was presented with a query from a potential candidate on how it was possible to complete a CertAVP in Veterinary Public Health as several of the modules are not currently being offered by any provider. The text in the module combination document states '*The modules for VPH have been designed deliberately with themes and suggested topic areas to enable providers and assessors with flexibility to link existing teaching programmes (e.g., components of Masters courses) to the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice. Suitable university courses currently available include: University of London, Distance learning MSc course in veterinary epidemiology and public health*', the candidate is asking the subcommittee whether the modules offered through RVC can be counted as the CertAVP modules for this designation.
21. The subcommittee discussed the wording in the document and although the course is listed in the document, the wording does not state the modules can be counted towards a VPH designation,

but for the course provider to link their existing programme to the CertAVP modules - *'to enable providers and assessors with flexibility to link existing teaching programmes'*.

22. The subcommittee was sympathetic to the candidate as there was currently no option for them to complete the CertAVP C modules in this area, however this would mean granting equivalence of these modules, an option that had recently been removed by the subcommittee as they did not feel they had the expertise to assess equivalence applications. Given that the option for equivalence of modules had recently been removed, the subcommittee felt it would be inconsistent to grant equivalence and may set a precedence.
23. There was discussion as to whether the designation should be removed, given no provider offers the modules, and whether this should be referred to Education Committee if the subcommittee felt equivalence of these modules should be granted.
24. The subcommittee discussed the options and felt the first step would be to contact RVC given they run these modules and see if they could offer assessment of the CertAVP VPH modules as they already run very similar ones. If RVC were not able to provide assessment of these modules, then the subcommittee would discuss the next steps regarding removing the designation further at the next meeting.

ACTION – contact RVC to see if they can run the VPH modules

25. The subcommittee enquired as to how many candidates took the C-VPH.1 module offered by RVC and if there was much interest in the other VPH modules.

ACTION – look into C-VPH.1 passes and interest in further modules

26. The subcommittee noted that the module combination document was dated from 2012 and that this should be reviewed and updated.

CertAVP Quality Assurance

27. The subcommittee was informed that this paper would be brought to the next meeting for more discussion.

Liverpool and Edinburgh QA reports

28. The QA reports from Liverpool and Edinburgh were noted.
29. The subcommittee enquired about student feedback rates on Edinburgh's report, as only 4 students out of 125 had completed this and what being done to encourage feedback. Ms Gregson said she would check with the main team, but that the lack of engagement with feedback was a university wide problem.
30. The subcommittee discussed whether there were any ideas on how to increase the numbers completing student feedback. Suggestions were to send weekly reminders and highlight any changes that have been made based on student feedback.

Edinburgh synoptic observer form

31. The observer form from the Edinburgh cardiology exam was noted.

Accreditation application

32. Liverpool submitted accreditation application forms to accredit the oncology modules (C-ONC.1, C-ONC.2 and C-ONC.3). 1 hour exam, case etc

33. The subcommittee were happy with the assessment methods and approved the accreditation applications for these modules.

Statistics

34. The statistics were noted.

Any other business

35. The subcommittee was informed that following the synoptic examiner training for the new synoptic policy, several concerns around the option where a candidate could submit a portfolio in place of one of the exam cases had been raised. Following discussion on the concerns raised by examiners the portfolio option has now been removed as an option from the synoptic policy, unless an application in a specific designation for this format has been submitted and approved by the subcommittee. The subcommittee will receive an email detailing this with the updated policy and guidance documents.

ACTION – secretary to send email with updated policy and guidance documents

36. Miss Quieros enquired how the portfolio option would work if the candidates did not provide sufficient or relevant information in their portfolio. As it is the candidate's responsibility ensure the correct information is provided in their portfolio, should the information submitted not be adequate, the candidate should be informed and they would be examined on three unseen cases. As the portfolio would be submitted 12 weeks in advance of the exam there would be adequate time for the candidate to prepare for the exam.

37. Mrs Carslake informed the subcommittee that there had been some posts made on Vet Voices in regard to the Veterinary Clinical Careers Pathway work on GP specialty training with a view that this would mean that the CertAVP would be replaced. The subcommittee was informed that this was a misunderstanding and that this would be addressed in any communication being sent out.

Date of the next meeting

38. The date of the next meeting is 26th November at 10am.

Laura Hogg
June 2024
l.hogg@rcvs.org.uk



Statutory Membership Examination Guidance 2025

Candidates entering the 2025 examination should be aware that proposals for a new Statutory Instrument, detailing the implementation conditions for the examination, are currently under consideration by Government. New features, should these be approved, include the inclusion of re-sit options for the written exam components, and the payment of the exam fee separately for the written exam and the clinical, practical examination. We expect to hear whether these rules have been approved by the end of 2024. If they are not approved, the exam rules for the 2025 exam diet will revert back to those used for the 2024 examination

Individuals are advised to read this guidance carefully and to refer to it as necessary at the different stages of the exam process. It describes the exam application process, the format and content of the exam and gives some advice about preparing to sit the exam.

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1. Introduction

Only veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses registered with the RCVS can practise veterinary medicine in the United Kingdom. The entitlement to be registered as a member of the RCVS is determined by the **Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966**.

If you would like to register to practise in the UK as a veterinary surgeon but your veterinary degree is not recognised by the RCVS, you must pass the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination.

Membership of the RCVS is not a substitute for a work permit or for meeting UK immigration regulations. The RCVS cannot provide advice regarding applications for VISAs, immigration, refugee or asylum status, please contact the Home Office.

This guidance outlines the process of applying to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination. It describes the exam application process, the format and content of the examination and gives some advice about preparing yourself to sit the examination.

You are advised to read this guidance carefully and to refer to it as necessary at the different stages of the exam process

If after reading the guidance, you have questions or require further information, please contact the Examinations Manager on 020 7202 0745 or rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. We aim to respond to emails within three working days of their receipt.

1.1. Legislative framework

The Statutory Membership Examination is held under the provisions of Section 6 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, and in accordance with the Regulations made under sub-section (4) of that section. The examination is designed for veterinarians who qualified overseas and who wish to obtain the right to practise in the UK. The examination tests whether a candidate has the knowledge and skills for practising veterinary surgery in the UK. The standard of knowledge and skill required to be shown by candidates to satisfy the examiners in the statutory examination shall be not less than the standard required to qualify as a veterinary surgeon under section 3(1) of the Act.

Success in the examination leads to the right to register and to practise in the UK (subject to visa requirements). Although the UK has now left the European Union (EU) much of the EU legislation still applies in the UK. This means that veterinary surgeons who work in the UK must be aware of both UK and relevant EU legislation as it relates to their veterinary activities in the UK. Candidates should also be aware of any changes in legislation between the devolved regions within the UK.

Candidates entering the 2025 examination should be aware that proposals for a new Statutory Instrument, detailing the implementation conditions for the examination, are currently under consideration by Government. New features, should these be approved, include the inclusion of re-sit options for the written exam components, and the payment of the exam fee separately for the written exam and the clinical, practical examination. We expect to hear whether these rules have been approved by the end of 2024. If they are not approved, the exam rules for the 2025 exam diet will revert back to those used for the 2024 examination.

1.2. RCVS Day One Competences

The Statutory Membership Examination is set to the standards outlined in the RCVS Day One Competences. These are the minimum essential competences that the RCVS expects all veterinary

Professional Conduct.

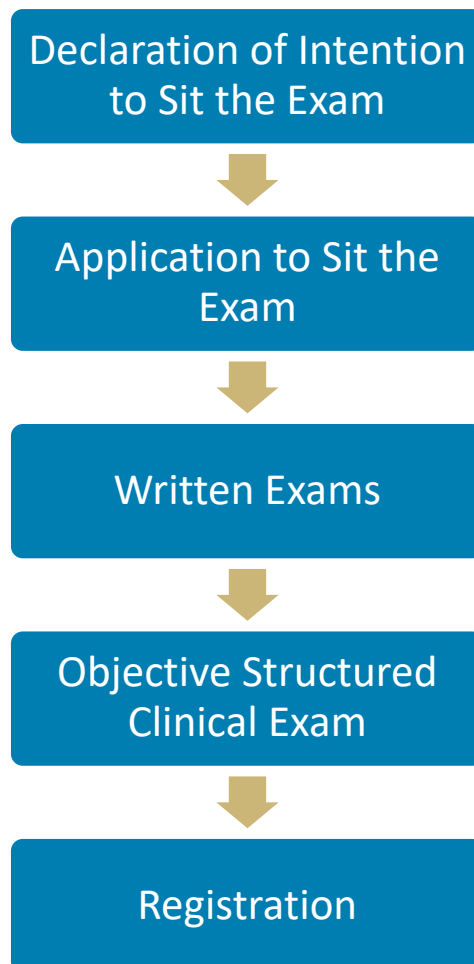
- A clinical, practical examination comprising a holistic Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) across three clinical domains (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine).

Candidates must pass all the written components before being allowed to proceed to the OSCE.

Further information about the content and format of the examination can be found in sections 6.7 and 6.8.

1.4. Pathway to RCVS membership

There are five stages that potential registrants must complete before they can practise veterinary medicine in the United Kingdom:



These stages are described below:

Stage 1 – Declaration of an ‘Intention to Sit’ the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination.

Individuals must submit a completed ‘*declaration of intention to sit*’ form and provide proof of their veterinary degree, identity, and a completed self-assessment skills list. If they wish to apply for an exemption for the English-language test (see section 2.7) then this is the stage at which to do so. This

information will be checked by the Examinations Manager and if our requirements are met, they will be added to our active list of individuals preparing for the examination and be given permission to 'see practice'. The process is covered in [section 2](#) of this guidance.

Veterinary surgeons, and those applying to be registered as veterinary surgeons, must disclose to the RCVS any cautions or convictions, including absolute and conditional discharges and spent convictions, or adverse findings (including by another regulator or professional disciplinary proceedings) which may affect registration, whether in the UK or overseas (except for minor offences excluded from disclosure by the RCVS). For more information, please see www.rcvs.org.uk/convictions.

Stage 2 – Application to Sit the Examination

If an individual on the 'intention to sit' active list is eligible to sit the examination, they will be sent the examination application form. This form must be returned to us by the provided deadline date, which is 14 January for the 2025 exam (please note this date may change each year), along with the following:

- examination entry fee of £1,400 (separate fees are required for entry into the OSCE exams and/or resit exams, refer to [section 4.6](#))
- proof of your International English Language Test System (IELTS) or Occupational English Test (OET) score
- letter(s) or Certificate(s) confirming your professional good standing.

The exam application process is covered in detail in [section 4](#) of this guidance. If you wish to request a Reasonable Adjustment (RA) to the exam process due to a disability or particular need (see section 2.6) please complete the RA form and provide suitable evidence before the exam deadline date.

Stage 3 – Written Examinations

The written examinations will normally be held online, using proctored software and a live invigilation process. You must pass all three clinical domain exam papers (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine) as well as the Code of Professional Conduct paper before you can proceed to the OSCE. See [section 6.7](#) for more information. The dates of the exams may vary each year/examination diet (and may change at short notice). Candidates listed on the intention to sit list will be provided with exam dates prior to the application closing date in January.

Stage 3a: Written examinations

For the 2025 examination diet, the written exam papers are scheduled to take place in March. Results will be issued 4 weeks after the date of the final exam paper.

Stage 3b: Written examination re-sits

If a candidate fails any component of the written examination, they will be entitled to one re-sit opportunity of those domains, in May, subject to application and payment of the re-sit fee. Results will be issued 4 weeks after the date of the re-sit examination.

If a candidate does not pass all the components of the written examinations following the re-sit exams, they may not proceed to the OSCE and any future attempts at the statutory membership examination must start from stage 1 above and encompass the full examination.

Stage 4 – Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The final part of the statutory membership examination is the holistic Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). This is a clinical, practical examination and will be held in-person at a veterinary school in the UK. As with the clinical written examinations, you must pass all three domains (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine) to pass the OSCE. See [section 6.8](#) for further information. The dates of the practical exams may vary each year/examination diet, OSCEs are usually held in September.

If a candidate passes the written examinations but then fails one or more components of the OSCE, they are entitled to re-enter the examination the following year and proceed directly to sit the OSCE components which they have failed, without having to re-enter the written examinations. If they fail the OSCE a second time, any further attempt at the statutory membership examination must be a new entry, with the relevant fee, and include both the written exams and OSCE.

Stage 5 – Registration

All examination results will be sent via email 4 weeks after the final part of each section (written examinations or OSCE). Successful candidates will be provided with details on how to register / be admitted for membership. The RCVS usually holds a short ceremony for candidates who have passed the full examination.

1.5. Working as a Veterinary Nurse

All veterinary nurses in the UK must be registered with the RCVS. Veterinary surgeons who do not also hold an appropriate veterinary nursing qualification may not apply for registration as a veterinary nurse. This is because the required competences and skills (and their education and training) have significant differences from those of veterinary surgeons. If an individual wishes to 'see practice' at a UK veterinary surgery, information about how to do so can be found in [section 3.3](#).

2. Declaring an intention to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination

The 'declaration of intention to sit' form can be found on the RCVS website here:

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/statutory-membership-exam>. If an individual holds a veterinary degree and intends to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination, they must:

- a. Declare their intention by completing the '*declaration of intention to sit*' form
- b. Provide proof of their primary veterinary degree or diploma (see section 2.1)
- c. If available, provide university issued transcripts of their studies (see section 2.2)
- d. Provide their registration certificate or veterinary licence if they have one (see section 2.3)
- e. Provide proof of their identity (see section 2.4)
- f. Confirm their belief that they have the relevant knowledge and skills by completing the self-assessment skills list (see section 2.5)
- g. Apply for exemption from IELTS/OET, if applicable. **Exemptions must be submitted no later than 1 December of the year preceding the exam** (see section 2.5)

- h. Individuals with a disability or particular need may also wish to complete a reasonable adjustment application, if required (see section 2.6). Please note that this application will not be reviewed until you have requested to enter into the exam.

2.1. Proof of primary veterinary degree

The examination regulations require individuals to provide proof of their primary veterinary qualification (normally a copy of the certificate or diploma received upon graduation from university).

A copy (photocopy or electronic scan) of their veterinary degree certificate and transcripts (with translations if the documents are not written in English) must be included with the completed '*declaration of intention to sit*' form. Original veterinary degree certificates should not be sent in the post, as we cannot be held responsible for any loss.

Original copies of veterinary degree certificates should be kept safe and available in case it is needed for future use. If we need to see an original veterinary degree certificate beforehand, we will contact the individual to make an appointment.

The RCVS normally accepts applications from veterinary surgeons who hold a degree or diploma awarded after at least 5 years of full-time study from institutions listed on the World List of Universities or the AVMA-Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World. Where this is not the case the RCVS may require further information to allow us to establish that the national government in the country which awarded the qualification allows you to practise veterinary medicine in that country.

2.2. Transcripts

If an individual's university has issued transcripts of their studies, these must be sent to the RCVS as part of the declaration of intention to sit the examination. As with the degree certificate, if transcripts are not written in English then the candidate must provide a professionally translated version alongside a copy of the original.

2.3. Registration certificate or veterinary licence

If an individual is currently, or has at any time in the past, been on a register of persons qualified to practise veterinary surgery in any country or state, details must be provided including the registration certificate or licence if this has been issued. This must also be professionally translated into English with a copy of the original also provided.

2.4. Proof of identity

Individuals are required to provide a copy of their in-date passport photo page. If their name differs from that on their degree or diploma they must also send a copy of the relevant legal document linking both names e.g., marriage/divorce certificate. If their name differs between documents for another reason, please contact the Examinations Manager at rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk for further instruction. Please do not send your original passport in the post, as we cannot be held responsible for any loss if you ignore this instruction.

2.5. Self-assessment skills list

Applicants must complete a self-assessment of their skills and knowledge to demonstrate that they have previously acquired knowledge and experience of the clinical activities featured in the RCVS Day One Competences document [RCVS Day One Competences - Professionals](#). Candidates must meet a minimum required standard in the companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine domains to pass the examination. The self-assessment skills list form provides the opportunity for applicants to reflect on the skills they have and make an informed decision about their

likelihood of passing the examination. If there are a few areas on the list which need to be covered the applicant should complete an action plan identifying how they will address these areas prior to the examination. This may include undertaking additional training, seeing practice, CPD or other suitable activity.

2.6. Candidates with special requirements or requests for reasonable adjustment

If a candidate feels that a reasonable adjustment or special provision is needed in the examination because of a disability or other particular need, they should submit a completed [reasonable adjustment form](#), available on the RCVS website, **as early as possible** in the examination application process. We must be notified no later than the examination entry closing date, otherwise it may not be possible to make the necessary arrangements in time. If a candidate falls ill or experiences unexpected difficult circumstances prior to, or during, the exams, they should use the mitigating circumstances form [Document library - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](#).

The RCVS will discuss what arrangements can be made, with the candidate, the Chair and members of the Statutory Membership Examination Board, and medical advisers as appropriate. Applications made for medical reasons must be accompanied by a current, official medical letter or certificate and other relevant documentation as outlined in the policy (translated into English).

Assessments for special educational needs must have been made after the candidate's sixteenth birthday.

In some exceptional cases, a candidate may be asked to contribute towards any additional costs incurred to introduce a reasonable adjustment, depending on the circumstances.

If a candidate is pregnant, and their due date is after the OSCE, they must inform us as soon as possible as additional health and safety precautions may have to be arranged.

2.7. English language test exemption

All RCVS registrants must be able to communicate effectively in English at an appropriate level. This can be demonstrated by passing either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Occupational English Test (OET) at the minimum required standard. Further information about these assessments can be found in [section 4.2](#).

If a candidate can demonstrate that their veterinary degree was taught and assessed entirely in English, then they may apply for an exemption from the language test as part of their declaration of intention to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination.

If a candidate wishes to apply for the exemption, this must be done prior to entering into the exam **no later than 1 December the year prior to the exam**. If we do not accept the application to be exempt then this will allow the candidate sufficient time to sit one of the English-language tests.

Candidate's must arrange for their university to write a letter to the RCVS to formally confirm that their whole veterinary degree was obtained at an English-speaking University where the whole course was taught and assessed solely in the medium of English. This letter must be written in English and be sent directly from the University to the RCVS at rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk.

We will consider each application on its individual merit. If a candidate is unable to provide this evidence, they will need to take the IELTS or OET test.

2.8. Translations of documents

If any documents submitted as part of the declaration of intention to sit or examination application are not written in English, an English translation must be provided alongside a photocopy of the original document.

All translations must be made by a professional translator and certified by the translator or a university or regulatory body.

2.9. Recent graduates

If a candidate has recently completed their studies in full and they know that they have passed their degree, but their certificate has not yet been issued, they should contact the Examinations Manager to discuss the likelihood of them being able to enter the examination. Specific information may be required, such as the date that the certificate will be available.

2.10. Refugees

Veterinary surgeons seeking humanitarian protection in the UK can seek financial aid provided by the RCVS to sit the Statutory Membership Exam. Evidence of their in-date humanitarian protection status should be submitted during the 'declaration of intention to sit' stage, along with the other documentation and supporting evidence listed above.

The RCVS recognises that due to their situation, refugee veterinary surgeons may be unable to provide documents required for 'intention to sit'. The Education Department, in conjunction with the SME Board, may be required to exercise their judgment to determine whether a refugee candidate can declare their intention to sit on a case-by-case basis.

Once the necessary supporting evidence has been submitted, the Examinations Manager will request financial support. Financial support offered includes:

- IELTS/OET testing
- Statutory Membership Exam fee

Additionally, the RCVS has arranged the opportunity for refugees and asylum seekers to receive free membership from the following organisations:

- British Cattle Veterinary Association
- British Equine Veterinary Association
- British Small Animal Veterinary Association
- British Veterinary Association
- Pig Veterinary Society
- RCVS Knowledge
- Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons
- Sheep Veterinary Society
- Veterinary Management Group
- VetCT

The Examinations Manager will provide refugees and asylum seekers with a consent form to share necessary details with the above organisations to gain free membership on an annual basis. The organisations retain the right to remove the opportunity of free membership, but the RCVS commends their generosity.

2.11. Submitting an application

An individual may submit an 'intention to sit' declaration all year round. If the intention is to enter the next examination diet, we must receive completed declarations and supporting documents by **31 December** the previous calendar year otherwise we cannot guarantee that we will have sufficient time to carry out the necessary checks before the examination closing date of 14 January. We recommend starting the declaration process around 5 months before the exam.

Individuals should aim to **send all the documents together**. Once all the evidence has been submitted a declaration will be reviewed to establish if the individual meets our requirements. A written response will normally be received from us outlining the outcome within three weeks of receiving a completed submission. Please note that if the submission is incomplete or if we must ask for additional documentation, then it may take longer to process the submission. If an individual is eligible to apply to sit the examination, they will be issued with a letter confirming that they may "see practice" in the UK (see section 3.3). They will also be added to our active list of individuals preparing for the examination.

The evidence provided will be kept on file as long as the individual confirms that they are intending to sit the examination. If we believe that an individual is no longer intending to sit the examination (i.e., five years after their last communication) their documents will be archived, and they will be required to submit a fresh declaration and supply their documents again.

2.12. Renewal of a declaration of intention to sit

Accepted declarations of intention to sit expire on 31 September each year. Once their declaration expires, an individual will be removed from our active list and will no longer be eligible to see practice in the UK. If an initial declaration of intention to sit had been submitted but the individual did not enter the examination yet wishes to do so in the next diet, they should submit a renewal of intention to sit form two weeks before the letter expires. This also applies to candidates who failed the examination but wish to re-enter in the next diet.

Individuals will not be eligible to see practice unless they have an in-date confirmation letter of intention to sit from the RCVS. If an individual wishes to continue to see practice in the UK after the 31 September, they must ensure they submit a renewal of intention to sit in good time to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. Please allow up to four weeks for a renewal of intention to sit to be processed and for a new letter to be generated.

3. Preparing for the examination

Candidates are responsible for preparing themselves to sit the examination. We provide information about the examination to assist candidates in their preparation as well as the following support:

- A suggested reading list in appendix 2 of this document
- An online exam preparation course, which includes a filmed example of a typical OSCE task <https://academy.rcvs.org.uk/>
- Guidance to assist candidates who have entered into the exam to determine whether their hardware is compatible with the software used for online written exams

- There will be an opportunity for candidates who have entered into the exam to familiarise themselves with navigating through an example exam using the software. **Any issues must be raised with the Examinations Manager as soon as possible.**
- Access to a formative written assessment **for candidates who submit a completed exam application and are accepted as a candidate will be provided nearer the time of the exam.** This contains 110 MCQs in the same format and to the same standard as those that will feature in the written examinations. These questions will not be assessed within the final exams but allow an opportunity for candidates to review the style and standard of exam questions while learning how to navigate and use the online exam application. Candidates have three attempts at the formative written assessment.
- A familiarisation session for candidates who pass the written component and proceed to the OSCE. This will feature a wide range of models and equipment typically used in UK veterinary practices. This is an optional session and will not contain any information about the content of the upcoming OSCE exam. This will normally be held on the day before the OSCE.

The examination is set to the standard of the RCVS Day One Competences and the OSCE takes a holistic approach aiming to reflect scenarios typically seen in UK general practice (see section 6). It is therefore recommended that candidates familiarise themselves with the RCVS Day One Competences documents available on our website here: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/day-one-competences/>.

3.1. Courses of study

The RCVS does not offer or endorse any course of this type and it is up to candidates to decide whether it would be useful to attend a course, or not. Please direct any enquiries to the provider of the course. Please do not contact the OSCE venue to ask questions about the practical exams.

3.2. Studying and access to libraries

Once an individual has met the examination entry requirements and been accepted as a candidate to sit the next examination they will be able to obtain membership of the RCVS Knowledge Library.

Examination candidates are offered a special library membership category which allows them to access resources. There is a fee of £25 for 6 months' membership. Please contact the RCVS Knowledge Library by email at library@rcvsknowledge.org or telephone +44 20 7202 0752 in advance to arrange an appointment and to let us know the material you would like to use <https://library.rcvstrust.org.uk/>. Membership forms are available from the library on request.

Candidates may also be eligible to apply for a reader's pass to the British Library's science collections. For information about the British Library's admission arrangements please contact them directly or visit their website.

3.3. Practical and clinical experience – Seeing Practice

As well as studying, spending time at UK veterinary practices will help candidates gain valuable practical and clinical experience in preparation for the examination. This is referred to as "seeing practice". Candidates may see practice under the Veterinary Surgeons (Practice by Students) (Amendment) Regulations 1993 [Seeing practice - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://www.rcvs.org.uk). The regulations

described below allow candidates to attend veterinary practices in the UK for the purpose of seeing practice. This is not a paid, employed role.

Seeing practice in **all domains** (companion animal, equine, production animal and public health) is **strongly encouraged**. All aspects of the examination are set in the context of how consultations and procedures are carried out in the UK. By seeing practice, candidates will experience how vets in the UK work and carry out consultations, which may be different to how they were trained. Candidates may also gain exposure to different species, treatments and diseases that are not common in other regions of the world which will improve their knowledge in preparation for the exam. Additionally, if English is not the candidates native language it can help improve their communication skills in all formats, which will aid in preparation for the IELTS/OET as well as the exam.

Candidates may not see practice without a valid, in-date letter from the RCVS confirming that they have submitted a completed declaration of intention to sit.

These Regulations permit overseas veterinarians to gain clinical experience in UK veterinary procedures by attendance at a UK veterinary practice for the purpose of entering for the examination. The supervising veterinary surgeon is responsible for what a veterinary student or candidate for this examination does and, therefore, has discretion to decide what procedures they may carry out. The Regulations set out different degrees of supervision for different procedures.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 provides, subject to certain exceptions, that only registered members of the RCVS may practise veterinary surgery and the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons states that 'Veterinary surgeons must ensure that tasks are delegated only to those who have the appropriate competence and registration'.

Exceptions to this rule are described in the Code's supporting guidance under the heading, 'Treatment of animals by unqualified persons'. The exception at paragraph 19.6 enables a registered vet, at his or her discretion, to supervise a candidate seeing practice in the same way that he or she would supervise a veterinary student as part of their clinical training, and the levels of supervision that apply are described in paragraph 19.7. Both paragraphs are set out below:

19.6 "The Veterinary Surgeons (Practice by Students) (Amendment) Regulations 1993 identify two categories of student, full time undergraduate students in the clinical part of their course and overseas veterinary surgeons whose declared intention is to sit the MRCVS examination within a reasonable time. The Regulations provide that students may examine animals, carry out diagnostic tests under the direction of a registered veterinary surgeon, administer treatment under the supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon and perform surgical operations under the direct and continuous supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon.

19.7 The RCVS has interpreted these as follows:

- (a) 'direction' means that the veterinary surgeon instructs the student as to the tests to be administered but is not necessarily present*
- (b) 'supervision' means that the veterinary surgeon is present on the premises and able to respond to a request for assistance if needed*
- (c) 'direct and continuous supervision' means that the veterinary surgeon is present and giving the student his/her undivided personal attention"*

If a candidate is seeing practice under these Regulations, they must notify the RCVS of their arrangements using a “seeing practice” form and provide updates as appropriate. This form is available on the RCVS website at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/statutory-membership-exam/>.

Candidates do not need to gain insurance from providers such as the Veterinary Defence Society to see practice in the UK however they should check that any practice they attend has appropriate insurance cover. Employers/host practices must have Public Liability, Employer’s Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance or finances in place to protect the practice, exam candidate and any staff who will be supervising the candidate should a problem occur. This insurance will be valid provided the candidate and staff are not acting outside the legislation described above.

The RCVS cannot help candidates find a veterinary practice or recommend any establishments and so they must make their own arrangements. The RCVS ‘Find a Vet’ database allows candidates to search for veterinary practices by geographical location and is available on the RCVS website at [Home - Find A Vet \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://www.rcvs.org.uk/Find-A-Vet)

It is for each candidate to decide where and how much time they need to spend “seeing practice” based on their assessment of their abilities and knowledge of UK veterinary practice. We strongly recommend candidates arrange to spend time at several different veterinary practices and/or one or more of the animal charities to gain practical experience with horses, production and companion animals and veterinary public health.

4. Applying to sit the examination

Application forms will be sent out to all of those on the active list prior to the opening of the application window (normally 1 October). Anyone who submits a declaration/renewal of intention to sit during the application window can request an application form once their declaration/renewal is accepted by the RCVS.

When a candidate submits an application, they must provide the following:

- a. A completed examination application form (see [section 4.1](#))
- b. An English language test report confirming they have achieved the minimum standard (see [section 4.2](#)) or confirmation of their exemption
- c. Evidence (certificate/letter) of their good professional standing (see [section 4.3](#))
- d. A completed reasonable adjustment application, if required (see [section 2.6](#))

If the above is approved, candidates will then be required to:

- e. pay the examination fee for the written component plus the administration fee (see [section 4.6](#))

Individuals will be accepted as an examination candidate only after we have received and approved all the required items and payment that make up a complete application. Upon completion of all entry requirements, candidates will receive written confirmation from the RCVS that they have been accepted as a candidate to sit the next examination.

In addition to meeting the RCVS examination entry requirements, you may also need to obtain entry clearance from the British Embassy or High Commission in the country you are living in, or a national of, to enter the UK to take the examination. **The RCVS is unable to offer advice regarding your visa status or work permit status. For such advice, please contact the Home Office.**

4.1. Examination application form

The closing date for initial entry to the examination will be provided to all candidates who have registered their intent to sit in advance. The closing date may change but is usually **5pm GMT on 14th January** each year. It is the candidate's responsibility to complete and submit their application in full by the closing date. All applications must be submitted via email to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. Late applications will not be accepted.

4.2. English language test report

Unless a candidate has been granted an exemption, they must provide proof that they meet the minimum required standards in the English language. This can be demonstrated via either of the following assessments (different testing systems cannot be excepted):

International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Achieving an average score of at least **7.0** across the listening, reading, writing, and speaking components of the **academic** version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A score of 6.5 is allowed in one component provided the remaining components are 7.0 or more and the overall average is at least 7.0: <https://www.ielts.org/>

Occupational English Test (OET): Achieving at least a **grade B** in the listening, reading, writing and speaking sub-tests of the **veterinary** version of the Occupational English Test (OET). A grade C+ is allowed in one sub-test provided the grades for the remaining sub-tests are a B or higher: <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-information/healthcare-professions/veterinary-science/>

Once a candidate has achieved the required standard in one of these assessments, they must arrange for the results to be provided to us. This will be a **Test Report Form** if the IELTS was taken, or a **Statement of Results** if the OET was taken. Test results can be sent to us by post or a good quality scanned copy can be provided by email (we cannot accept photocopies). Alternatively, candidate's can arrange for their test centre to send the results directly to us.

Test scores must be in date on all days the candidate intends to sit all examinations i.e., from March through to September / October. Test results are valid for **two years** from the date the test was taken. We do not accept scores from any English tests other than IELTS or OET.

If a pass is achieved in some sub-tests of the OET, or components of the IELTS, but the candidate has fallen below the required standard in others, then they may re-sit those failed sub-tests. Please note that all of the sub-tests/components must be in date for the duration of the examination period.

We will confirm that we have received the test report once we have verified the scores through the IELTS/OET verification service. OET users should ensure that you add the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to the list of verifier institutions permitted to access their results.

Please contact the test centre for up-to-date result time frames. We strongly advise candidates aim to take the test as far in advance of submitting their application as possible.

4.2.1 English language test validity extension

A passing IELTS/OET certificate / result is valid for two years. Individuals who have achieved a passing score and have continued to live and/or work in an English-speaking country can request their test results validity to be extended by providing a relevant reference from a qualified and registered veterinary surgeon in an English-speaking country. In the UK this person should be a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS).

An English-speaking country is defined by the following list: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-the-register/before-you-apply/evidence-of-your-knowledge-of-english/using-other-types-of-evidence>.

The reference should be emailed by the veterinary surgeon writing on the candidate's behalf, directly to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk and include the following:

- Candidate's name
- The veterinary surgeon's name and registration number
- The address of the veterinary practice
- The dates and amount of time the candidate has spent working with or observing them in practice
- Their assessment of your English skills in writing, reading, listening, and speaking

A reference which is approved by the Examinations Manager will be valid for one year from the date of receipt.

4.3. Evidence of good professional standing

Before an examination entry is accepted, the RCVS must be satisfied that:

- The candidate is of good standing, i.e., that there is no charge of, or ongoing investigation of, crime or unprofessional conduct outstanding against them.
- The candidate is of good character in general terms.
- the information provided by the candidate relates to their most recent period of veterinary employment and registration or student activity.
- the evidence provided is current and up to date. We accept letters dated within the examination entry period (1 October – 14 January). We do not accept letters dated or received outside this time (15 January - 30 September).

Candidate's must provide the RCVS with up-to-date evidence of their good standing each time they apply to sit our examination. Letter(s) must be directly emailed to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk

4.4 Who may provide evidence of good standing?

We require a letter or certificate from the veterinary licensing authority of the country in which the candidate is currently registered or was last registered. This must be accompanied by a notarised English translation where necessary. It should be noted that in some cases, the RCVS may require additional evidence of good character, especially if the candidate's registration is not current or they have not practised within the last 3 months. If a letter provided on the candidate's behalf does not meet RCVS requirements, we will inform them as soon as possible and the RCVS Registration department will discuss provision of additional suitable documentation with them.

If the candidate has graduated within the last year and has not previously been registered, they should obtain a letter or certificate of good professional standing from the Dean or Principal of the university or college at which they obtained/will obtain their primary veterinary qualification.

The RCVS will not normally accept evidence which is presented by the candidate. However, if their veterinary licensing authority or university cannot provide a letter or certificate written in English, a copy of the letter or certificate may be sent to the candidate, so that they can get it translated. They must then send the original notarised translation to the RCVS. The original copy must still be sent directly from the originator.

It is our experience that some organisations take several months to provide the evidence of good professional standing. Candidate's should therefore request the document at the earliest opportunity.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the RCVS receives their letter or certificate of good professional standing. **The RCVS is not responsible for chasing up these letters.** If the evidence is not provided by the examination entry closing date, then it is possible that they will not be able to enter the examination.

If the candidate cannot provide a letter as described above, they will have to arrange for the RCVS to receive evidence of their good standing from other sources. An email should be sent to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk outlining their query. If necessary, they will be sent a form to complete which will allow the registration team to consider their circumstances and advise them how to meet our requirement.

Veterinary surgeons, and those applying to be registered as veterinary surgeons, must disclose to the RCVS any cautions or convictions, including absolute and conditional discharges and spent convictions, or adverse findings (including by another regulator or professional disciplinary proceedings) which may affect registration, whether in the UK or overseas (except for minor offences excluded from disclosure by the RCVS). For more information, please see www.rcvs.org.uk/convictions

4.5. Number of examination attempts

Individual candidate examination outcomes (pass and fails) are reported to the RCVS Education Committee. Candidates may attempt the written examination as many times as they wish. If a candidate has failed the clinical, practical examination (OSCE) on three or more occasions, the Education Committee may withdraw that candidate's right to sit the statutory examination. For each attempt, candidate's will be required to pay the required examination fee (refer to section 4.6). The RCVS Education Committee may, if it sees fit, withdraw the right to sit the examination from a candidate. If the committee decides to use their power to do this, that decision will override their rule allowing unlimited attempts at the written examination.

4.6. Examination fees

The examination fees are reviewed on an annual basis.

The examination fees for each component of the 2025 exam must be paid for in full and within the deadlines set below.

Exam component and information	Fee	Deadline date
Initial exam entry fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes one attempt at the full written exams, held in March 2025 	Examination fee of £1,100 plus a £300 administration charge (Total £1400)	14 January 2025
Re-sit written examinations (clinical domains) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only available for candidates if they have taken and failed any clinical domain written exam paper held in March 2025 	Examination fee of £450 plus a £50 administration charge (total £500) per clinical exam domain re-sit	25 April 2025
Re-sit written examination (Code of Professional Conduct exam) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only available for candidates if they have taken and failed the Code of Professional Conduct Exam held in March 2025 	One free re-sit attempt	25 April 2025
OSCE Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only available for candidates to book once they have passed <u>all</u> components of the written exams. 	Examination fee of £1,100	15 th July 2025
Entry to (re)sit individual OSCE exam domains in 2026 for candidates who failed the OSCE in 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available for candidates if they have taken and failed any component of the OSCE during the September 2025 diet 	Examination fee of £450 plus a £50 administration charge (Total £500) per OSCE exam domain required to re-sit	14 th January 2026

Payment is made via the RCVS MyAccount portal. Details are provided once all other aspects of the exam application are complete. Please note, all international bank charges are incurred by the person paying the fee, including those levied by our bank, which is approximately £7.00.

4.7. Withdrawal and refunds

If a candidate wishes to withdraw from the examination, they must notify the RCVS in writing by email to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. Any refund of an examination fee will be made payable to the person who paid the fee. The administration fee will not be refunded.

The size of the refund a candidate is eligible for is dependent on when they choose to withdraw:

Time of Withdrawal	Eligible Refund
Before the relevant exam closing dates, i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March exam entry closing date - 14 January • Re-sit May exam entry closing date – 25 April • OSCE exam entry closing date – 15 July 	The full examination fee, not including the non-refundable administration charge
More than 28 days before the examination	Half the examination fee, not including the non-refundable administration charge
28 days or fewer before the examination	No refund
Failure to attend the examination	No refund

Discretionary refunds on medical or compassionate grounds

If a candidate needs to withdraw from the examination for medical or compassionate reasons, they may be eligible for a discretionary refund of some or the whole examination fee. A request in writing must be submitted with documentary evidence to support the medical or compassionate grounds cited, no later than 28 days after the part of the examination that was missed. Such candidates may have to wait several months for a decision because the RCVS committees which have discretion to grant refunds meet at fixed times during the year and it may not be possible to reach a decision outside the meetings.

4.8. Reapplications following failure or withdrawal

Each time a candidate applies to enter the examination within a new examination diet they must:

- complete a new application form
- pay the appropriate examination fee
- arrange for the RCVS to receive up-to-date evidence of their good professional standing
- meet any other entry requirements.

Candidates will have to sit another academic IELTS or OET test if their previous report is out of date (more than two years old).

5. Admission to the Register

Candidates who pass the whole of the Statutory Membership Examination are eligible for admission to the Register of the RCVS. It is a legal requirement under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 that such individuals register and are admitted to membership of the RCVS before engaging in any type of veterinary work in the UK or using the letters MRCVS after their name.

Some successful candidates will also have to meet UK Home Office immigration criteria to work in the UK and may require a work permit. These requirements are separate from the requirement to be registered with the RCVS. Further information on work permits can be found on the Home Office website. Any queries must be directed to the Home Office.

Candidates must have their passport or identity card with them and their original veterinary degree certificate or diploma when they register. Registration fees must be paid before they attend to register. Full details will be sent with the candidates examination results.

5.1. Admissions ceremony

The RCVS may hold a short ceremony for candidates who have passed the examination. Candidates do not need to attend this celebratory event to register with the RCVS. Details of how to register / become a member of the RCVS will be provided with the OSCE results letter.

RCVS registration fees and retention fees are reviewed annually and are increased from 1 April. Please look at the RCVS website for details of current fees <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/about-us/fees/>. If a member does not pay their annual retention fee their name will be removed from the Register, and they will not be able to practise as a veterinary surgeon in the UK.

6. About the examination

This section of the guidance provides information about the scope, standard, format and content of the written examinations and the Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE).

The examination is conducted in English and all communication with candidates, before, during and after the examination will be conducted in English.

6.1. Exam format

The RCVS Day One Competences are the minimum essential competences that the RCVS expects all veterinary students to have met when they graduate, to ensure that they are safe to practise on day one, in whichever area of the profession they start to work. Veterinarians who qualified overseas are also expected to meet these minimum standards and therefore the examination is designed to provide candidates the opportunity to demonstrate that they meet this minimum standard. You are advised to read the RCVS Day One Competences document carefully and refer to it throughout your exam preparation. The document can be downloaded from the RCVS website.

The clinical written papers and the OSCE are split into three domains: companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine. Candidates **must** meet the minimum required standard in each of the three domains and **will not be able to compensate across them**. If a candidate falls below the standard in one domain, **then they will not pass the examination regardless of how well they performed in the other domains**. This applies to both the written and OSCE components of the examination.

The examination will cover the underpinning knowledge and understanding, clinical reasoning, and practical and professional competences required to practise as a veterinary surgeon in the UK including coverage of veterinary public health, medicine, surgery, and the husbandry associated with companion animals, production animals and horses.

Only veterinary surgeons who have submitted an examination application form and supporting documents, paid the relevant examination fee and had their application accepted may attend the examination. Confirmation letters will be sent to those who are accepted as a candidate to sit the exam.

Candidates who pass all of the written exam components will receive confirmation they can progress to the first available OSCE dates at the same time as their written results. The OSCE exam entry fee must then be paid. The location and approximate date(s) on which their OSCE takes place will also be provided at this time. Depending on candidate numbers, candidates may take the OSCEs on different days/weeks.

Candidates **must achieve a pass in all three clinical domains of the written examination as well as the Code of Professional Conduct exam before they can proceed to the OSCE**. All components (written examinations and OSCEs) of the exam must be sat within an 18 month period.

6.2. Exam results and re-sit options (see also appendix 1)

From 2025 onwards, if a candidate fails any of the clinical domain written exam papers held in March, they may choose to re-sit these papers during May the same year, subject to the appropriate examination fee for re-sits being paid. Only one re-sit attempt of each domain is permitted and this must be within the same exam diet. Candidates cannot defer to re-sit a paper in the following diet.

If a candidate passes their re-sit exam(s) in May, and have passed all the written examinations overall, they are entitled to proceed to the OSCE in September, subject to the OSCE exam fee being paid. Due to late entry onto the OSCE exam, this may result in a later OSCE exam date being allocated.

If the candidate fails any of their re-sit written exams, they cannot proceed to the OSCE. If they choose to re-enter the Statutory Membership Examination at a future date, they must submit a new application to take the entire examination as a new candidate.

If a candidate fails the Code of Professional Conduct (COPC) written exam paper in March, they are permitted to re-sit the COPC exam in May 2025 at no additional charge (one re-sit allowed only).

If a candidate passes all the written exams and takes the OSCE, but then fails to pass all domains within the OSCE (Companion Animal, Equine or Production Animal/VPH), they may proceed directly to the OSCE being held in the following diet (without sitting the written exams again) and reattempt the domains they had previously failed, subject to payment of the appropriate examination fee. Such candidates may not defer beyond the next diet, and if they fail the OSCE domains on this second time, any future attempts of the statutory membership exam must be via a new application and include the full examination (written papers and OSCE).

Please also refer to section 6.10 examination Outcomes and re-sit policy for further details

No elements of the examination should not be taken without thorough preparation and exposure to seeing practice within the UK, ideally across all clinical domains of practice.

Please also see Appendix 1.

6.3. Examination venues

The written examinations will be administered online, usually over a period of one to three weeks. Normally, each of the clinical domain exams last for approximately 2 hours and the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct exam lasts for 2 hours and 15 minutes. However, candidates should note that times may vary and the duration and schedule for each exam will be confirmed when the exam dates are released. Candidates will be able to take the examination from a secure, appropriate location of their choosing in their own country of residence. Live proctoring and invigilation will be used throughout the exams. Any suspicious behaviour shown during the exam, or an unsuitable environment may prevent candidate's from completing their exam. If a candidate does not set up the examination software application correctly, they may not be able to take their exam. Candidates must inform the RCVS Examinations Manager of the country and time zone in which they will be sitting the exam.

The examinations will be invigilated remotely by a member of the software team by utilising your computer webcam and microphone to observe and take a recording of you during the examination session. The software will lock down the computer for the duration of the examination session: candidate's will not be able to navigate away and access the internet or other files/programs stored on your machine. The hardware requirements can be found at [Information for Exam Candidates | TestReach](#)

Details of the live invigilation process will be provided to candidates prior to taking the exam.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary hardware to run the examination software and that it is in full working order (including suitable equipment, good internet, a webcam and microphone) is in full working order. There will be no opportunity to

appeal any components of the examination due to hardware failure. Appeals will only be considered for a verifiable fault with the examination software which was outside the candidate's control. **Touch screen devices (laptops/computers/tablets/iPads) cannot be used, as they are incompatible with the software. Under no circumstances must a device with a Touch screen function be used, even if you do not use the touch screen option and use a mouse or keyboard for example.)**

Devices with Microsoft teams or other messaging software must be uninstalled before commencing an exam.

There will be an opportunity for candidates to determine whether their hardware is potentially compatible prior to the exam. If any issues are encountered during this process candidates must raise this with the Examinations Manager as soon as possible.

The software utilises advanced artificial intelligence and in-person live proctoring to detect potentially suspicious behaviour in the video record, such as eye movements suggesting that a candidate is reading a study aid, use of a mobile phone that could take a screenshot or noises in the room which could suggest a candidate is being fed answers. Any suspicious behaviour suggestive of cheating or incorrectly set up exam app settings may result in the exam being paused or stopped while an investigation is completed by an exam security invigilation member of the software team. This will also be referred to the Examination Board and the Registrar, who will review all reports of the alleged misconduct and consider if there is sufficient evidence for the allegation to be pursued (see section 6.14).

Candidates must conduct themselves during this examination no differently than if it were being held in-person in a regular, invigilated test centre. Candidates must find an environment similar to that of an invigilated test centre or exam room in which to take their exam.

Candidates who pass the written components will proceed to the OSCE. This will take place at a UK veterinary school in Autumn. Candidates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements to the OSCE venue.

It should be noted that the examination is designed and delivered by the RCVS and therefore all correspondence should be directed to us. Candidates must not contact the exam software company or the vet school directly (unless instructed to do so by us) as they will not be able to offer assistance.

6.4. Emergency evacuation procedures

If a candidate is required to evacuate the building where they are completing their remote online written examination, they must do so immediately and in accordance with the instructions set out by the building's regulator. They must notify the invigilator and examinations manager about their need to evacuate **as soon as it is safe to do so.**

If, during the practical examinations, a candidate is instructed to evacuate the examination area they must follow instructions provided by the examiner or other test centre personnel. Candidates should leave the examination area in an orderly way, without taking anything with them, or talking to other candidates. They must assemble at the designated area and not leave this area. If they are permitted to return to the examination area, they should do so immediately when instructed. Candidates who are absent once the examination has re-started will not be compensated for any time lost.

6.5. Identification

At the start of each exam day, each candidate will be asked to show their ID (an in-date passport). Candidates may also be asked to present this again to the live invigilators during the written exams.

6.6. Prohibited items

For the written examination, the following items must not be present in the room whilst the examination is in session:

- Any educational, test preparation or study materials
- Electronic devices other than the computer on which the examination will be taken. This includes mobile phones, tablets, hand-held computers, pagers, voice-controlled devices (such as an Alexa for example) and smartwatches. If a device is seen, the exam may be stopped, or the candidate may be asked to show it to the screen and be observed turning this off and placing this in view of the invigilator.
- Bracelets or jewellery which bang or scratch on the table should be removed to prevent any unnecessary noise which could trigger the invigilation software. Exceptions to this can be found in section 6.8.4. A thorough exam security check will take place. Items of clothing with buttons, broaches and pockets will be asked to be presented to the invigilator for exam security checking. Pockets may be asked to be emptied. Items such as jewellery and glasses may also be requested to be shown to the invigilator.
- Stationary, paper, desk clocks and calculators are not needed as they are present within the exam software, and not allowed to be with the candidate at the time of the exam. included online within the exam software.

A room scan will be completed prior to each written exam. Candidate's will be asked to show the invigilator the walls of the entire room along with the ceiling and floor.

Candidates should complete their exam sat at a table or desk (not sat on a sofa for example). They will be asked to complete a 360-degree scan of the desk/table and chair they are using when taking the exam. Where possible, walls within the room should be free from posters, pictures, shelves etc. If these can not be removed, candidates may be asked to present these areas to the invigilator.

The exam must be taken in a room with a door that closes, so the candidate is not disturbed. If needed, a 'do not disturb' sign should be put on the door to prevent interruptions.

All types of spectacles / glasses and ear plugs will be required to be presented to the invigilator for exam security checking. Mobile phones, pagers and electronic devices must be turned off and moved to a different room.

Revision notes, textbooks, articles, journals, and study aids must not be present in the room whilst the examination is in session

Candidates are not permitted to take any of the following items into the OSCE station:

- Any educational, test preparation or study materials
- Personal items, including mobile phones, hand-held computers, pagers, smartwatches, or other electronic devices (clocks will be provided where required)

- Bags, purses, wallets
- Coats and outdoor wear not required for the examination
- Bracelets or jewellery which bang or scratch on the table must be removed to prevent disturbance to other candidates. Exceptions to this can be found in section 6.8.4.
- Pencil cases or stationery (these will be provided for you).

A secure space will be provided at the OSCE venue for candidates to store their personal belongings.

6.7. 'Fit to sit' the examination

If a candidate presents at the examination centre (which in the case of the written examination shall be interpreted as logging onto the software), they are indicating that they are fit to sit the examination. If a candidate becomes unwell at any point during the examination, they should inform one of the test administrators or examiners immediately. If they are not fit to sit the exam for any reason, a mitigating circumstances form needs to be completed and submitted to the examinations manager. [Document library - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](#) Medical evidence may be requested.

6.8. Written examinations

The online written examination consists of 350 multiple-choice questions within three, clinical domains (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine) as well as an open-book examination testing candidate's knowledge of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct (60 multiple-choice questions). Candidates must pass all these components to be eligible to proceed to the OSCE. The written examination will take place remotely, online, within a period of one to three weeks. The clinical domain exams usually last for approximately 2 hours and the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct exam usually lasts for 2 hours and 15 minutes.

The use of foam ear plugs to decrease noise is allowed. These must be presented to the live invigilator at the start of the exam, these will then be checked to ensure they are not a means of communication (e.g., Bluetooth enabled).

6.8.1 Clinical domain examinations

This examination consists of 350 clinically relevant Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ) that test both knowledge and clinical reasoning. These will cover three domains:

- Companion animals – approximately 50% of total questions
- Production animals (including veterinary public health) – approximately 30% of total questions
- Equine – approximately 20% of total questions

The questions typically consist of a clinical vignette (a clinical scenario which you might come across in your day-to-day practice), with five answer options. Candidates are required to select the **single best answer**. With this type of question, several of the options are potentially correct but one is a better match to the question than the others by a clear margin.

Candidate's must meet the minimum required standard in each of the three domains. There will be **no compensation across domains** i.e., if a candidate falls below the required standard in one clinical domain, then they will fail the examination regardless of how well they did in either of the other clinical domain examinations.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure they allow sufficient time to log into the examination software before the examination is due to start. The formative assessment mock test provides candidates with an idea of how much time is required for this.

All candidates will take the exam at the same time. Times will be presented using the UK time zone (GMT). During the exam candidates cannot get up and leave their desk.

Negative marking will not be applied.

6.8.2. Code of Professional Conduct exam

The Code of Professional Conduct MCQ examination is an open-book exam, designed to test candidates' knowledge of – and ability to find information within - the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct, and its application to veterinary scenarios. It will also test knowledge of key organisations and standards relevant to a veterinary surgeon practising in the UK. As with the clinical examination, candidates should ensure that you leave sufficient time to log in before the exam begins.

During this exam, candidates may access a searchable copy of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct [Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](https://www.rcvs.org.uk) to assist them. The document is uploaded into the exam software application so that it is easily accessible during the exam. Candidates are still expected to complete this paper under examination conditions and any allegations of misconduct, such as communication between candidates, will be referred to the Examination Board and the Registrar in line with section 6.14 of the guidance.

The length of this examination session is usually 2 hours 15 minutes with no opportunity for toilet breaks.

Candidates are strongly recommend to familiarise themselves with the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and supporting guidance when preparing for this exam.

Negative marking will not be applied.

6.8.3. Candidate examination conduct (written examinations)

When logging into the software to take the examination, candidates will need their username, password and identification. Mobile phones, pagers and electronic devices must be turned off and stored away from the exam room. Revision notes, textbooks, articles, journals, and study aids must not be present in the room whilst the examination is in session.

The exams will be live-proctored by a member of the exam software invigilation team. They will ask each candidate to show them (via your laptop/computer camera) a full scan of the room, chair and desk/table. Candidates should ensure the exam is taken in a room that they are comfortable showing the invigilator. Exams cannot be completed if the room scan is not done to the satisfaction of the invigilator. Items such as spectacles / glasses, or any electronic devices seen within the area, will be asked to be shown to the invigilator. The invigilators are trained to detect suspicious items and detect untoward behaviour that many be considered as an exam security threat. Items of clothing with pockets, buttons and broaches, as well as jewellery, will also be inspected, long sleeves will be asked

to be rolled up. Candidates should consider carefully what to wear each day for the exam, as this checking process can take time to complete.

It will not be possible to take toilet or rest breaks whilst the examination is in session, therefore candidates should ensure they are comfortable and prepared before the examination session begins.

No other person is permitted to be in the room with a candidate whilst the examination is in session.

Candidates must not leave the room for any reason other than an emergency whilst the examination is in session.

Communication of any kind with anyone else during the examination is strictly forbidden and if this takes place an exam security invigilator will be asked to intervene.

Candidates will have the option to finish the examination early if they desire. Once the exam is finished and answers submitted, the invigilation conditions will be lifted (if appropriate) until the start of the next exam session. Candidates will not be permitted to re-visit their answers once their examination has been completed and submitted.

If candidates experience any problems with the computer or exam content during the examination, they should **alert the live invigilators who will provide support**, and after the exam contact the examination manager immediately. Candidates may be asked to complete a mitigating circumstances form.

6.8.4. Sample exam questions

We have provided a small sample of clinical MCQ questions in Appendix 1 showing the format of questions that will be included in the examination.

There will be an opportunity for each candidate to access (three times) a formative assessment scheduled with 110 MCQ questions to aid your exam preparation (100 clinical MCQs and 10 relating to the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct). These questions reflect the breadth and scope of the questions that candidates can expect to see in the paper and will provide an opportunity for candidates to experience the style of questions contained within the actual examination. If candidates have any concerns after taking this test, they should contact the Examinations Manager as soon as possible at rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk

6.9. Objective Structured Clinical Examination

The clinical, practical examination will be in the form of a holistic Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). OSCEs are a fair, valid, and reliable assessment method; all candidates will be assessed on identical clinical scenarios and practical tasks, asked the same questions, and be scored using a standardised approach.

The OSCE is a multi-station circuit of clinical / professional scenarios which candidates have 15 or 20 minutes to complete. Each station within the OSCE assesses a range of skills, all of which enable candidates to demonstrate RCVS Day One Competences. The stations are designed with a holistic approach to emulate typical consultations seen in UK general practice, for example the ability to take a history, examine an animal then decide on the next step to be taken and communicate that back to the client. A video recording of a typical holistic OSCE station used in the exam is available here: [RCVS](#)

[Academy](#) and further information about the course can be found here ['Working in the UK' online courses for veterinary professionals educated outside of the UK - Professionals \(rcvs.org.uk\)](#)

Stations that assess communication skills may include an actor playing the role of the client or other relevant party. Other stations may involve clinical models/simulators, and some may involve the use of cadavers. Some stations may have a live animal and a model and/or cadaver in separate areas. In all cases, candidates will be expected to perform tasks as if they were treating a live animal and should behave as they would when working in a practice in the UK. These skills will be assessed across companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine domains. Candidates must meet the minimum required standard in each of these three domains to pass the examination. There will be **no compensation across domains** i.e., if a candidate falls below the required standard in one domain, then they will fail the examination regardless of how well they did in either of the other domains.

The scenarios which feature in these OSCE stations are based on common and/or important clinical scenarios encountered in veterinary general practice. They will be at the level of the RCVS Day One Competences. These may differ from other countries and therefore candidates should ensure that they are familiar with the methodology they are required to follow.

Examiners will mark each candidate against a standardised scoring rubric. This will describe to the examiners the performance (knowledge skills, behaviours) candidates need to demonstrate in order for them to achieve the allocated marks. All candidates will be marked against the same scoring rubric.

Each station rubric will assess some or all of the following constructs:

- Animal handling and management
- History taking
- Examination skills
- Diagnosis (clinical judgements)
- Technical skills
- Treatment planning (clinical decision making)
- Communication skills
- Professionalism (including safety)
- Organisation (including time management)

The examiners will record their marks independently. During the examination no examiner knows the marks an individual candidate has scored at any other station (unless they have also assessed that candidate at that station). Feedback on candidates' performance will not be provided.

6.9.1. OSCE Examiners

The examiners are appointed by the RCVS. There will be two independent examiners per OSCE station who will observe candidates during the examination. The examiners will be experienced veterinary surgeons who have received training in the assessment process to ensure that the assessment is fair, valid and reliable.

6.9.2. Candidate examination conduct (OSCE)

The OSCE exam period can typically take between 5 and 7 days to complete. However, this may be liable to change depending on the number of candidates who enter the examination.

Upon arrival at the examination centre, candidates will be shown to a waiting room and their identity will be checked. All candidates will be given a badge that displays their candidate number, and this must be visible for the duration of the OSCE so that the examiners can identify them. Please do not wear a uniform with your name embroidered on to this. Candidates will also receive a briefing about the examination process.

Personal belongings must be placed in the locker or secure area indicated by the test centre staff. Mobile phones, pagers and electronic devices must be turned off before being placed in the secure storage area. Neither the test centre nor the RCVS will be held responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced items. Candidates will not be permitted to take any equipment into the examination (except for the items detailed in section 6.8.4).

Friends, relatives, or children are not allowed to wait in the test centre, nor can they contact candidates during the exam.

The OSCE consists of thirteen stations in separate circuits, such as a clinical skills lab, equine centre, or production animal centre. Examination administrators will ensure that each candidate is at the correct circuit and has plenty of time to change into the correct clothing before the exam start time.

At the allocated start time, candidates will be taken to the examination area where they will be shown to their first OSCE station. At each station, candidates have three minutes to read the station instructions outside the station (reading time may vary, based on candidates with reasonable adjustments). This will include a brief background related to the clinical scenario and instructions for completing the task(s). These instructions contain all the information required for completion of the station so candidates should ensure they take time to read them very carefully. Once the reading time has elapsed, each candidate will enter their station and begin the task(s). A copy of the station instructions will be available inside for reference.

Candidates will have an allocated amount of time to complete each station (normally either 15 or 20 minutes). The time allowed will be stated on the OSCE instructions. **Candidates are responsible for managing their own time in the station.** Each station will include a mechanism by which the candidate can monitor their time for the duration of the scenario, usually a hand-held timer. Some stations may contain more than one practical task. If a candidate is unable to carry out a particular task, they may wish to bypass it and forgo its marks to focus on other tasks within the station. Once the station's time has elapsed, the invigilators will provide instructions to move on to the next station or return to the holding room. Other than as directed in the candidate instructions, candidates should refrain from initiating conversation with the examiners, other candidates or any other personnel present during a station.

Candidates are advised to check carefully that they have completed all the tasks before leaving the station as once they have left, they are not permitted to re-enter. When a candidate has finished each station, they may leave and sit on the chair indicated by the invigilator and wait for further instructions. Candidates are not permitted to communicate with other candidates while waiting.

Scheduled breaks will be provided as appropriate. If candidates need to use the toilet during the OSCE, they should ask the invigilators during the waiting time in the holding rooms. Candidates will not be given additional time to complete the examination if they do take an unscheduled break. When all stations in the circuit have been completed, candidates will be taken back to the waiting area.

6.9.3. Health and safety

Working with animals carries with it an element of risk which candidates are consenting to by entering this examination. In the process of running the examination, the RCVS and the venue will take appropriate steps to mitigate any such risks as far as possible. Neither the RCVS nor the venue may be held responsible for any injuries sustained by a candidate as a result of his/her negligence either through their actions during the examination or their failure to wear adequate protective gear (see section 6.8.4).

As the examination involves the use of live animals, the examiner may stop a candidate at any time during the examination if it appears that their level of competence is such as to jeopardise the safety and/or welfare of the animal or examination personnel.

6.9.4. Dress code, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and equipment

Candidates are required to follow the dress code outlined in this section. Clothing and footwear are not provided by the RCVS or the examination centre, therefore candidates are required to bring their own. It is important that these have been thoroughly cleaned to prevent cross contamination.

Candidates are expected to bring the following equipment with you:

- Stethoscope
- Fob watch or wristwatch with a second hand for use in clinical examinations of animals (smart watches are prohibited)

For Health & Safety purposes, jewellery including piercings should be removed and hair should be tied back out of the face.

The RCVS recognises there are different religious and cultural beliefs amongst candidates and that candidates may have medical conditions. The RCVS guidance on Religious Clothing and Beliefs can be found [here](#). If a candidate believes these may impact the dress code stated, then please contact the Examination Manager before 31 December.

Clothing requirements for each section of the OSCE are as follows:

Component	Clothing Requirements
Companion Animal	Clean scrubs or a lab coat and suitable footwear (no open toe shoes). Do not wear scrubs with your name embroidered on.
Production Animal and Veterinary Public Health	Clean overalls or boiler suit and clean wellington boots. Waterproofs may be worn if preferred but are not mandatory. After the exam, candidates must carry out a complete hand and boot wash, remove any waterproofs and change into regular shoes.

Equine	Clean overalls or boiler suit and sturdy boots. No waterproofs or wellington boots are allowed in the stables. Protective headgear will be provided by the RCVS.
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Candidates should not wear and/or cover up areas of scrubs/overalls/boilers suits that have their name embroidered on to the clothes. Name badges should be removed.

6.10 Examination Appeals

The RCVS has an examination appeals policy carried out in accordance with Examination Appeals Procedure agreed by the Council. An appeal may be made only in respect of the conduct of the examination and not against the academic judgment of the examiners. Appeals must be made using an appeal form obtained from the RCVS and submitted to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk within 28 days of the date of the letter advising you of the examination result.

A candidate cannot progress to the OSCE without first passing all of the written examinations. Candidates accepted onto the 2025 exam onwards, who fail one or more of the written exams taken in March 2025, have an opportunity to re-sit these papers in May 2025, subject to payment of the appropriate fee (see section 6.2).

On occasions where a candidate appeals the results of their exam, **it cannot be guaranteed that the appeals panel hearing will take place, and an outcome reached, in advance of the OSCE in September.** If an appeal is upheld, it is unlikely that the result will be overturned; the usual outcome is that the candidate is offered the opportunity to take the exam again at the next available sitting (at no charge) which may be the following year.

6.11. Mitigating circumstances

If a candidate feels there are serious mitigating circumstances (such as a sudden onset of illness) affecting their performance at the examination, they must report these to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk at the earliest opportunity. If they become ill during the exam session the live invigilators and examination manager must be notified immediately.

If a candidate cannot attend the examination because of serious illness or a different overwhelming problem, they should notify the exams manager that they will not be attending as soon as possible. After the examination, the candidate will be required to complete a mitigating circumstances form providing the circumstances and evidence.

A mitigating circumstances form will be available from the RCVS upon request. Completed forms along with supporting information must be supplied within six days of the examination (written or OSCE). Each application will be considered on an individual basis.

6.12. Confidentiality and exam security

The results of the examination must be an accurate reflection of the candidate's knowledge and skills as a veterinary surgeon. Any cheating or misconduct before, during or after the examination may raise doubts about a candidate's fitness to practise.

All examination material remains the property of the RCVS and candidates are not permitted to reproduce, or attempt to reproduce, examination materials through memorisation or other means. **Candidates must not share information about the questions or cases used in the examination.** They must not provide information relating to the examination content that may give unfair advantage to individuals who may be taking the examination, including, without limitation, posting information regarding the examination content on the internet, on social media or providing it to anyone involved in the preparation of candidates.

If any candidate becomes aware of, or witness, any attempt to compromise the examination, they must report it to the RCVS.

6.13. Misconduct

If any candidate engages in unacceptable or improper behaviour before, during or after the examination to attain success then their results will be annulled, and they may be barred from entry to future examinations.

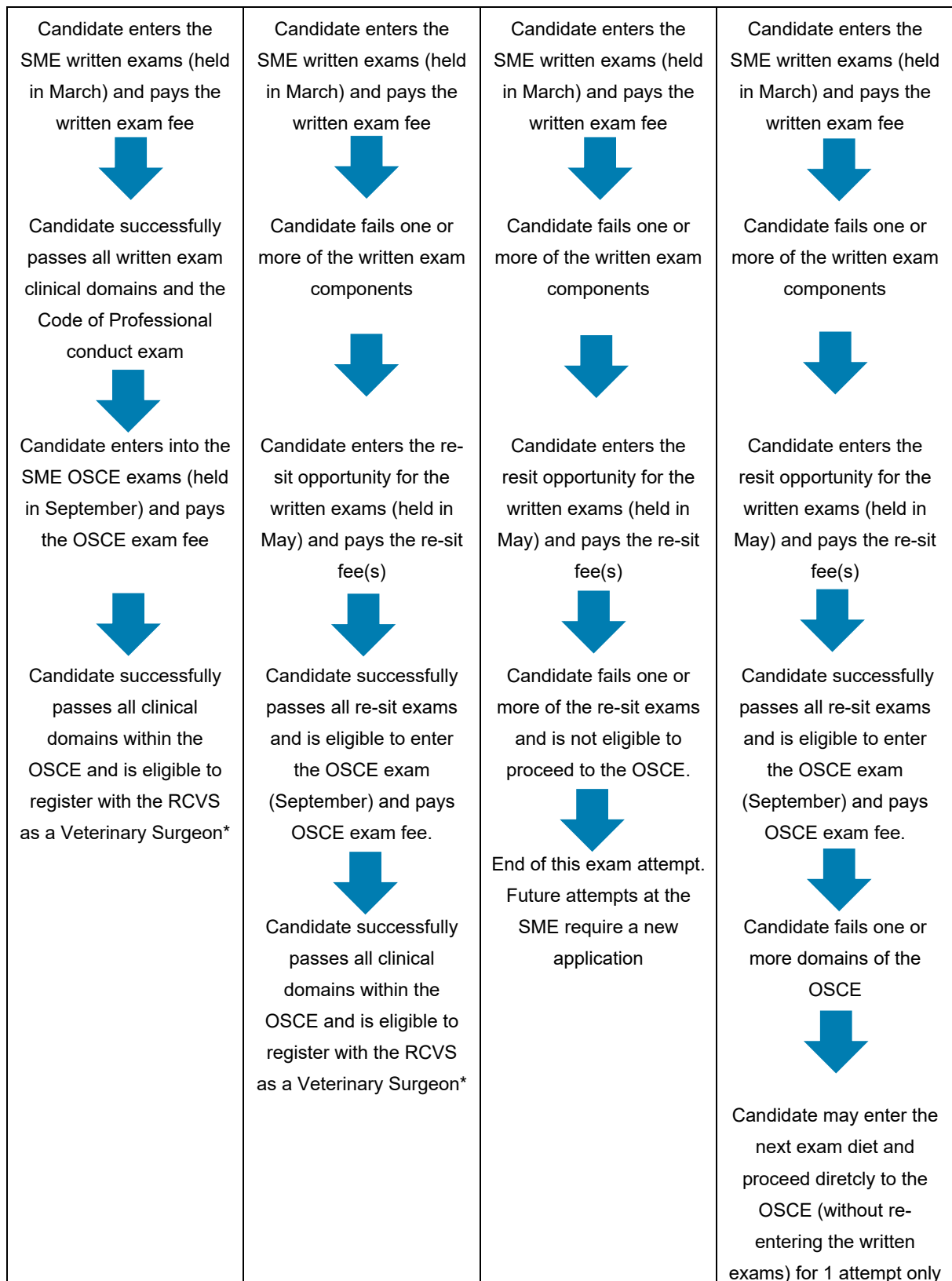
Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Failure to comply with reasonable instructions given by an examination official.
- Refusal to complete scans of the room or comply with the requests of the invigilator during exam security checks.
- Verbal or physical abuse of any person or animal such that an examiner or member of the examination team is made to feel intimidated or unsafe
- Disruptive behaviour during the examination or during break times.
- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another candidate.
- Disclosing content from an examination to a third party, either in person or via email or social media.
- Removing examination materials from the examination that they have not previously been authorised to remove. This includes removing materials by using recording devices and taking photographs.
- Bringing items into the examination other than those which candidates have been permitted to use.
- Communication either verbally or via signals with other candidates whilst under examination conditions.
- Impersonation of a candidate or allowing yourself to be impersonated.
- Bribery, or attempted bribery, of any personnel involved in the design, development, delivery of the examination.
- Being part of in-person or virtual groups, who share information that may breach exams and not reporting this.

Allegations of misconduct will be referred to the Examination Board and the Registrar, who will review all reports of the alleged misconduct and consider if there is sufficient evidence for the allegation to be pursued. Candidates accused of misconduct will have the opportunity to provide a defence. We may withhold candidate results while we investigate an allegation of misconduct.

Appendix 1

The flow chart below provides some examples of various routes that a candidate might encounter on their journey through the exam to registration. This includes examples how the exam could be completed via the resit policy.



Appendix 2

Example Clinical MCQ questions

The single best answer is highlighted

1. You are called to see an 8 year old horse with anorexia, signs of depression and weight loss. Your clinical examination reveals no obvious abnormalities with the exception of poor body condition and icterus of the sclera. In light of the history and clinical findings, what are the most relevant plants or trees to look for in the horse's grazing environment?
 - Alfalfa
 - Foxglove
 - Oak trees
 - Ragwort
 - Yew
2. You are at a routine fertility visit at a dairy farm and are presented with a cow listed as 'oestrus not observed'. On trans-rectal ultrasound the cow has a large thick walled ovarian cyst. The cow's blood progesterone is raised (5ng/ml). What would be the most appropriate treatment?
 - Insert an intravaginal progesterone device for 10-12 days
 - Manual rupture of the cystic structure
 - Single injection of pregnant mare serum gonadotrophin (PMSG)
 - Single injection of gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH)
 - Single injection of prostaglandin
3. You detect a grade V/VI pansystolic left apical murmur in a 10 year old Toy Poodle. The heart rate is 140 beats per minute. The owner reports that the dog has recently started coughing at night. What is the most appropriate method of investigation to determine whether treatment for congestive heart failure is required?
 - 2D echocardiography
 - Auscultation
 - Chest radiography
 - Electrocardiography
 - Serum pro-BNP assay

Appendix 3

Suggested Reading list

The reading list is divided into the three clinical domains: companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine. This is followed by a general list containing texts which are relevant to more than one species. Websites that give information about current UK legislation of relevance to veterinary surgeons are listed, as well as some recommended veterinary journals and publications. You should read widely and be familiar with current issues and UK-specific problems. The reading list should act as a guide to the depth of knowledge required and should not be considered as a complete summary of the required knowledge.

You are also recommended to review the Day One Competences published by the RCVS ([link below](#)). This sets out the minimum essential competences (comprising knowledge, skills, and attitudes) required to register with the RCVS.

Equine

Auer, J.A. and Stick, J.A. (eds) (2018) *Equine Surgery* 5th ed Philadelphia: Saunders

Baxter, G.M. (ed) (2011) *Adams and Stashaks Lameness in Horses*. 6th ed Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Knottenbelt, D.C. and Pascoe, R.R. (2013) *The Colour Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of the Horse*. London: Wolfe. ISBN 9780723436607

Mair, T. et al (eds) (2012) *Equine Medicine, Surgery and Reproduction*. 2nd ed London: CRC Press

Munroe, G.A. and Weese, J.S. (2011) *Equine Clinical Medicine, Surgery and Reproduction* London: CRC Press

Reed, S.M. et al (2017) *Equine Internal Medicine*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Elsevier. ISBN 9780323443296

Companion animal

Books covering general medicine and surgery:

Fossum, T.W. (ed) (2018) *Small Animal Surgery*. 5th ed. St Louis: Mosby

Hill, P.B. et al (2011) *100 Top Consultations in Small Animal General Practice*. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Johnson, A. and Tobias, K.M. (eds) (2018) *Veterinary Surgery: Small Animal*. Philadelphia: Saunders

Maddison, J. et al (2015) *Clinical Reasoning in Small Animal Practice*. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Nelson, R. and Couto, C.G. (eds) (2013) *Small Animal Internal Medicine*. 5th ed. St Louis: Elsevier. ISBN9780323086820

Schaer, M. and Gaschen, F.P. (2016) *Clinical Medicine of the Dog and Cat*. 3rd ed. London: CRC Press

Books covering more specific disciplines

BSAVA produce a series of books and manuals which provide comprehensive coverage of a wide range of small animal disciplines. The following are some examples which you may find useful. Further information can be found on their website: www.bsava.com.

Bains, S.J. et al (eds) (2012) Manual of Canine and Feline Surgical Principles: a Foundation Manual BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

DeCamp, C.E. et al (eds) (2015) Brinker, Piermattei and Flo's Handbook of small animal orthopaedics and fracture repair. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders

Duke-Novakovski, T., de Vries, M. and Seymour, C. (2016) Manual of Canine and Feline Anaesthesia and Analgesia. 3rd ed. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Gould, D. and McLellan, G.J. (2014) Manual of Canine and Feline Ophthalmology. 3rd ed. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Harcourt-Brown, F. and Chitty, J. (2013) Manual of Rabbit Surgery, Dentistry and Imaging. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Harvey, A. and Tasker, S. (2013) Manual of Feline Practice: a Foundation Manual. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Holloway, A. and McConnell, J.F. (2013) Manual of Canine and Feline Radiography and Radiology: a Foundation Manual. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Hutchinson, T. and Robinson, K. (2015) Manual of Canine Practice: a Foundation Manual. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

King, L.G. and Boag, A. (2018) Manual of Canine and Feline Emergency and Critical Care. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Meredith, A. and Lord, B. (2014) Manual of Rabbit Medicine. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Meredith, A. and Johnson Delaney, C. (2010) Manual of Exotic Pets. 5th ed. Quedgeley: Gloucester

Miller, W.H. et al (2013) Muller and Kirk's small animal dermatology. 7th ed. Missouri: Elsevier Mosby

Production animals

General

Constable, P.D. (2016) Veterinary medicine: a textbook of the diseases of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and goats.

NADIS Animal Health Skills (subscription required): <https://clinicallylibrary.nadis.org.uk/>

Bovine

Ball, P.J. H. and Peters, A.R. (2004) Reproduction in cattle. 3rd ed. Oxford: Wiley

Blowey, R.W. and Weaver, A.D. (2011) A Colour Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of Cattle. 3rd ed. St Louis: Mosby

Cockcroft, P. (ed) (2015) Bovine Medicine. 3rd ed. Oxford: Wiley

Weaver, A.D. et al (eds) (2018) Bovine Surgery and Lameness. 3rd ed. Oxford: Wiley

Sheep

Scott, P.R. (2015) Sheep Medicine. 2nd ed. London: CRC Press

Winter, A.C. and Clarkson, M.J. (2012) A Handbook for the Sheep Clinician. 7th ed. Wallingford: CABI

Pigs

Taylor, D.J. (2013) Pig Diseases. 9th ed London: 5M Publishing

Poultry

Greenacre, C.B. and Morishita, T.Y. (eds) (2015) Backyard Poultry Medicine and Surgery A Guide for Veterinary Practitioners. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Sainsbury, D. (2000) Poultry Health and Managements. 4th ed. Oxford: Blackwell

Veterinary public health

Brown, M. (2000) HACCP in the Meat Industry. Boca Raton: CRC Press

Buncic, S. (2006) Integrated Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health. Wallingford: CABI

Colville, J. and Berryhill, D. L. (2007) Handbook of Zoonoses St Louis: Mosby

Collins, D.S. and Huey, R.J. (2015) Gracey's Meat Hygiene. 11th ed. London: Saunders

General reading list

This list contains texts which are relevant to more than one species.

Clarke, K.W., Trim, C.M. and Hall, L.W. (2013) Veterinary anaesthesia. 11th ed. London: Saunders

Cockcroft, P.D. (2003) Handbook of Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine. Oxford: Wiley

Constable, P.D. et al (2016) Veterinary Medicine. 11th ed. London: Saunders

Coombes, N. and Silva-Fletcher, A. (2018) Veterinary Clinical Skills Manual. Wallingford: CABI

Gray, C. and Moffet, J (2010) Handbook of Veterinary Communication Skills Oxford: Blackwell

Latimer, K.S. and Robert, D.J. (2011) Duncan and Prasse's Veterinary Laboratory Medicine: Clinical Pathology. 5th ed. Oxford: Wiley

McDonald, P. et al (2011) Animal Nutrition. 7th ed. Harlow: Pearson

Noakes, D.E., Parkinson, T.J. and England, G.C.W. (2018) Veterinary Reproduction and Obstetrics. 10th ed. London: Saunders

Taylor, R.L. et al (2015) Veterinary Parasitology. 4th ed. Oxford: Wiley

Zachary, J.F. (ed) (2017) Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease St Louis: Mosby

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) resources

This list contains resources which may provide additional support in preparation for the practical exam:

Bexfield, N. Lee, K. eds (2014) BSAVA Guide to Procedures in Small Animal Practice. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Coombes, N. Silva-Fletcher, A. eds. (2018) Veterinary Clinical Skills Manual. CABI, Wallingford

Bristol Vet School Clinical Skills Booklets: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/vet-school/research/comparative-clinical/veterinary-education/clinical-skills-booklets/>

Legislation

You should familiarise yourself with UK legislation that may be relevant to veterinary practice in the UK, including the following areas:

- Animal health
- Animal welfare and the health and safety of humans
- Food including milk
- Medicines and residues
- Pet passports
- Slaughterhouses, meat hygiene and meat inspection
- Transport and marketing of animals
- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1996, available on the RCVS website at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/veterinary-surgeons-act-1966/>

You should always check that any legislation you refer to is the current legislation. You can check by referring to www.legislation.gov.uk which contains up to date information.

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the UK government department responsible for policy and regulation on the environment, food, and rural affairs. The website contains information covering food, farming, wildlife, and pets. Website: www.defra.gov.uk

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government. Its role is to safeguard animal and plant health. Website: www.apha.gov.uk

The Food Standards Agency – website: www.food.gov.uk

Information about medicines legislation, control of drug usage, good practice and the cascade can be found in the publications section of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's website – www.vmd.defra.gov.uk

Animal husbandry

You need to be familiar with the animal husbandry of all species commonly kept as pets in the UK and farmed in British agricultural systems. Books are not listed here. You should seek assistance from a librarian if you have difficulty finding appropriate books. For production animals the following publications are recommended: Livestock Farming, Dairy Farmer, Pig Farming, The Sheep Farmer, What's New in Farming and Farmers Weekly.

Veterinary Publications and Journals

You are advised to read the following journals and publications:

- The Veterinary Record
- In Practice
- Journal of Small Animal Practice
- Equine Veterinary Education
- UK Vet
- Publications from the British Equine Veterinary Association – www.beva.org.uk
- Publications from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association – www.bsava.com

Summary of useful websites

RCVS Knowledge Library - <https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/library-and-information-services/>

RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons – available on the RCVS website at www.rcvs.org.uk/vetcode

RCVS Day One Competencies – available on the RCVS website at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/day-one-competences/>

www.beva.org.uk – British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA)

www.bsava.com – British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA)

www.bva.co.uk – British Veterinary Association (BVA)

www.defra.gov.uk – Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

www.apha.gov.uk - The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

www.food.gov.uk – Food Standards Agency (FSA)

www.legislation.gov.uk – managed by the National Archives, publishes all UK legislation on behalf of His Majesty's government

www.rcvs.org.uk – Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

www.vmd.defra.gov.uk – Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

www.oie.int – World Organisation for Animal Health

Other support which you might be interested in

The **'Working in the UK – Veterinary Surgeons'** provides overseas vets with the necessary information and support needed to practise in the UK and prepare for the SME. Further details can be found online: <https://academy.rcvs.org.uk/>