

GENERAL PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE – GPCert(SAM)

SYLLABUS

This syllabus is designed as a guideline to the key areas that the delegate will be expected to understand. The emphasis is very much on the approach to different conditions – practical examination techniques, application of appropriate diagnostic procedures and an understanding of the potential complications associated with different body systems, rather than an exhaustive list of potential disorders. The veterinarian will instead be expected to have knowledge of common disorders and an appreciation of resource material from where further research can be undertaken into more unusual conditions. An understanding of normal anatomy and physiology, and how these impact on the pathogenesis and treatment of medical diseases will be expected.

Exam questions may cover any area of the syllabus but not all areas of the syllabus are covered in the taught programme, therefore delegates are recommended to be familiar with all parts of the syllabus.

Suitable reading lists and resource material will be provided, both in this Handbook, and by individual tutors during the course.

Clinical pathology and laboratory medicine

- Selection of appropriate clinicopathologic tests
- Principles and interpretation of diagnostic haematology, clinical biochemistry and urinalysis
- Assessment of primary and secondary haemostasis
- Cytology: sample preparation and principles of cytologic interpretation
- Assessment of aspirates, body cavity effusions, lavage and wash samples

Immunology

- Immunopathological mechanisms and the basis of immune-mediated diseases
- Diagnosis of immune-mediated disease
- Immunosuppressive therapies

Respiratory disease

- Diagnostic steps in respiratory disease
- Assessment and management of the coughing dog and cat
- Assessment and management of the patient with respiratory distress
- Upper and lower airway, pleural and pulmonary parenchymal disorders
- Respiratory therapeutics

Cardiovascular medicine

- Auscultation and physical examination of the cardiac patient
- Use of electrocardiography, radiology and ultrasound in cardiac disease
- Pathophysiology of cardiac failure
- Cardiac involvement in systemic disease
- Congenital cardiac disease
- Myocardial and valvular heart disease

- Pericardial disease
- Cardiovascular therapeutics

Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics

- Principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
- Principles of drug interaction and therapeutic drug monitoring
- The effect of disease on drug use
- Principles of rational drug selection and usage

Gastroenterology

- Investigation and management of acute and chronic vomiting and regurgitation
- Investigation and management of acute and chronic diarrhoea
- Principles and use of gastrointestinal endoscopy
- Investigation and management of canine and feline hepatobiliary disease
- Investigation and management of acute and chronic exocrine pancreatic disorders

Emergency medicine and critical care

- Major body system assessment, laboratory evaluation and monitoring of the emergency patient
- Pathophysiology and management of shock
- Principles and practical aspects of fluid therapy and transfusion medicine
- Management of acute intoxications
- Cardiopulmonary-cerebral resuscitation

Diagnostic Techniques

- Principles of radiography and radiology
- Contrast radiography and radiation protection
- Principles and uses of endoscopy and ultrasound imaging

Endocrinology

- Principles of endocrine physiology and pathophysiology
- Investigation and management of adrenal, thyroid and parathyroid disease
- Endocrine pancreatic disease – management and control of diabetes mellitus
- Diagnosis and management of pituitary disorders

Infectious diseases

- Diagnosis, management and prevention of feline infectious disease
- Diagnosis, management and prevention of canine infectious disease
- Imported diseases and the pet travel scheme
- Notifiable diseases
- Vaccination

Medical oncology

- Principles of tumour biology and staging
- A general approach to the cancer patient
- Principles of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgical oncology
- Management of common canine and feline neoplasms
- Oncologic emergencies

Medical neurology

- Revision of functional neuroanatomy
- The neurologic examination and localisation of lesions
- Diagnostic techniques in neurology (MRI, CT, CSF analysis, EMG, biopsy)
- Investigation and management of common neurologic syndromes
- Investigation and management of seizures

Urology

- Diagnostic techniques in urinary tract disease
- Diagnosis and management of acute renal failure
- Investigation and therapy of glomerular disease
- Diagnosis and management of chronic renal failure
- Investigation and management of urinary incontinence
- Investigation and management of prostatic disease
- Canine and feline urolithiasis and lower urinary tract disease

Clinical nutrition

- Nutritional assessment and nutrition of the hospitalised patient
- Nutritional management of hepatic, renal, lower urinary tract and cardiac disease

Dermatology in internal medicine

- The dermatologic examination
- Dermatologic involvement in systemic disease

Ophthalmology

- The ophthalmic examination
- Ocular manifestations of systemic disease

Practical session

- Recognition of heart murmurs
- Diagnosis of common arrhythmias and management
- Obtaining good quality diagnostic radiographs
- Interpretation of chest films
- Understanding standard echocardiographic views and how to obtain them