



**GENERAL PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE  
IN OPHTHALMOLOGY – GPCert (Ophthal)  
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 ocular systems, rather than an exhaustive list of potential disorders. The veterinarian will instead be expected to have knowledge of common ocular disorders and an appreciation of resource material from where further research can be undertaken into more unusual conditions. An understanding of embryology, normal anatomy and physiology, and how these impact on the pathogenesis and treatment of ocular disease will be expected.

There are specific modules for the Horse, Farm Animals and Exotics but all other modules will pertain, in the main, to the Dog and Cat.

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

Delegates should refer to the detailed learning objectives listed for each of the taught modules when interpreting the syllabus.

**Examination of the eye**

Describe routine procedures and instruments required for a thorough examination of the eye and adnexa including focal and general illumination and slit lamp microscopy

Understand more advanced and specialist techniques available for ophthalmic diagnosis including

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direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy, radiography, ultrasound, CT and MRI scans

Obtain diagnostic cytology, microbiology and biopsy samples

Describe a systematic approach to the investigation of ophthalmology cases

## **The orbit, globe, eyelids and third eyelids**

Describe the anatomy of conditions involving the orbit, globe, eyelids and third eyelid

Understand the presenting signs of and differential diagnoses for congenital and acquired orbital disease

Understand the effect of facial conformation on eyelid position and its associated effects

Describe the surgical approach to eyelid disease

## **Conjunctiva, naso-lacrimal system, cornea, sclera and episclera**

Describe the anatomy of extra-ocular structures and the ocular surface

Describe a thorough diagnostic approach to corneal disease

Describe a systematic approach to the investigation and treatment of both ulcerative and nonulcerative conditions

Understand the different causes of corneal oedema, opacification, pigmentation and vascularisation and how to differentiate between them.

## **Uveal tract, lens and glaucoma**

Recognise congenital and acquired defects involving the uveal tract

Describe the presenting signs of anterior uveitis, posterior uveitis and panuveitis and the approach to its diagnosis and treatment

Understand the development of glaucoma both as a primary and a secondary ocular disease and discuss treatment options

Recognise lenticular disease and the range of congenital and acquired diseases that can affect the lens

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Describe the investigation and management of cataracts and lens luxation

## **The retina, vitreous and optic nerve. Inherited eye disease**

List and recognise congenital and acquired conditions of the vitreous and optic nerve

Discuss inherited conditions of the retina and choroid, along with acquired non-inflammatory retinopathies

Compile a list of the differential diagnoses of chorioretinitis, retinal detachment and retinal haemorrhage

Discuss the use of eye testing schemes and genetic testing to help control the spread of inherited diseases

## **Neuro-ophthalmology, ocular neoplasia and an overview of ocular manifestations of systemic disease**

Describe a logical approach to the investigation of neuro-ophthalmic problems

Understand relevant neurological pathways and the autonomic nerve supply

Discuss abnormal nystagmus, disorders of ocular motility and sudden onset blindness

Recognise primary and secondary ocular neoplasia and explain its management

Discuss ocular manifestations of systemic disease including infectious, metabolic, nutritional, toxic, immune-mediated or vascular aetiologies

## **Equine and large animal ophthalmology**

Understand the examination of the equine eye

Discuss the common ocular diseases seen in horses, cows, sheep, goats and pigs

Discuss a realistic approach to the specific diagnosis and treatment options of ocular disease in large animals

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## **Exotic animal ophthalmology. Ocular therapeutics and pharmacology**

Recognise the normal avian and reptile eye, along with some of the common ophthalmic diseases that may be encountered in these species

Discuss the role of various species in ocular toxicology studies

Discuss ocular pharmacology and therapeutics; from the principles of medicating the eye, through the classes of drugs available, and how to choose the correct drug for common ophthalmic conditions.

## **Case-based ophthalmology**

List differential diagnoses, formulate investigation plans and treatment protocols for common ophthalmic problems

## **Ophthalmic surgery practical techniques**

Understand the different instruments, suture materials and magnification required for extraocular surgery

Discuss pre- and post – operative care of surgical patients, along with a discussion of appropriate anaesthetic regimes

Understand common surgical techniques for treating disease of the orbit, globe, eyelids, third eyelid, conjunctiva and cornea

Understand the principles of intraocular surgery