GENERAL PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE
IN SMALL ANIMAL SOFT TISSUE SURGERY – GPCert(SASTS)

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 surgery diseases will be expected.

Exam questions may cover any area of the syllabus. Not all areas of the syllabus are covered in the taught programme, therefore delegates sitting the examination 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.

Wounds

- Aetiology
- Wound healing processes
- Principles of wound healing
- Principles and uses of surgical drains

Surgical asepsis and basic operative techniques

- Surgical wound contamination
- Classification of wound contamination
- Rational use of antibiotics in surgery and prophylactic antibiotic therapy
- Antiseptics and sterilisation techniques
- Instrumentation and instrument handling
- Gloving and gowning

Patient assessment, anaesthesia and analgesia

- Pre-anaesthetic assessment

- Anaesthesia and disease
- Pre-medication and induction
- Maintenance of anaesthesia and anaesthetic circuits
- Anaesthesia for thoracic procedures
- Analgesia
- Local analgesia
- Post-operative care

Critical care

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and after
- Cardiovascular assessment
- Critical care therapeutics
- Fluid therapy
- Electrolyte disorders
- Enteral and parenteral nutrition

Wound reconstruction

- Structure of the skin
- Primary closure, delayed closure and secondary healing
- Suture materials
- Principles of reconstructive surgery
- Skin flaps and skin grafting
- Specific skin diseases

Surgical oncology

- Principles of oncologic surgery
- Surgery for skin tumours, oral tumours, gastrointestinal tumours, urogenital tumours and chest wall tumours
- Feline-specific tumours

Surgery of the urinary tract

- Anatomy of the urinary tract
- Obstructive diseases of the urinary tract – ureters, bladder and urethra
- Urinary tract trauma – kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra
- Urinary incontinence
- Neoplasia of the urinary tract

Surgery of the reproductive tract

- Reproductive physiology – the oestrus cycle of the bitch and the queen
- Pregnancy diagnosis, dystocia, and post-partum diseases
- Diseases and surgery of the female reproductive tract, including the mammary glands

- Diseases and surgery of the male reproductive tract, including the prostate gland, penis and prepuce

Surgery of the salivary glands, oesophagus and stomach

- Salivary gland diseases – mucocoeles, trauma, hypersialism, neoplasia
- Oesophageal foreign bodies, trauma, strictures, diverticulum, neoplasia
- The stomach – hiatal hernias, gastric foreign bodies, dilatation/volvulus, gastric outflow disease, gastric neoplasia

Intestinal and anorectal surgery

- Intestinal surgery – serosal and omental patching, obstructions and foreign bodies, neoplasia
- Megacolon, rectal prolapse and stricture
- The anus and perianal region – atresia ani, anal sac disease, anal furunculosis

Liver, spleen and pancreas surgery

- Liver – biopsy, lobectomy, trauma
- Portosystemic shunts
- Cholecystectomy and cholecystotomy
- Splenectomy
- Pancreatectomy

Surgery of the abdominal and thoracic cavities. Hernias and ruptures

- Hernias – hiatal, perineal, inguinal, umbilical, diaphragmatic, prepubic
- Peritonitis – pathophysiology, clinical signs and treatment
- Chest wall diseases – neoplasia and trauma

Surgery of the upper airways. Laryngeal and tracheal surgery

- The nose – neoplasia, autoimmune disease
- The nasal sinuses
- Brachycephalic airway disease
- Laryngeal diseases – paralysis, collapse, trauma, stenosis, neoplasia
- Tracheal surgery - tracheotomy, tracheostomy, collapse, resection/anastomosis, trauma, foreign bodies, neoplasia

Oral and pharyngeal surgery. The ear

- Surgery of the lips and cheeks, tongue and hard palate
- Maxilla/mandible – maxillectomy and mandibulectomy
- Pharyngeal surgery, pharyngostomy tubes
- Tonsillar surgery

- The ear – lateral wall resection, vertical canal ablation, total canal ablation/lateral bulla osteotomy, ventral bulla osteotomy, haematomas

Thoracic surgery

- Instrumentation, thoracotomy procedures, thoracic drainage
- Lung lobectomy, thoracic trauma
- Diaphragmatic ruptures
- Thoracic wall trauma
- Chylothorax
- Patent ductus arteriosus

Ophthalmology

- Anatomy and physiology of the eye
- Principles of ophthalmic surgery
- Management of ophthalmic emergencies

Dentistry

- Dental morphology
- Dental disease and pathology
- Surgical treatment of dental disease

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


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