



CHARTERED  
VETERINARY  
PRACTITIONER

## Course Profile

# CVP1020 – ESSENTIAL VETERINARY CLINICAL SKILLS

**Semester:** Semester 2, 2023 | **Mode:** Online

## General Course Information

### Course Details

**Course Code:** CVP1020

**Course Title:** Essential veterinary clinical skills

**Coordinating Organisation:** Australian Veterinary Association

**Semester:** Semester 2, 2023

**Level:** AVA CVP Education Pathway Core Course

**Number of CPD points:** 160

**Course Coordinator:** Dr Caitlin Mack

**Course Teachers:** A/Prof Natalie Courtman; Dr Jane Day; Dr Matthew Kopke; Dr Ryan Leong; Dr Caitlin Mack; Dr Katie Nash; Dr Joanne Rainger;

**Course Description:** This course provides training in the foundational clinical skills for small animal veterinary practitioners, including disease diagnosis, principles of treatment, and anaesthesia and emergency care. Students will learn through the provision of lecture material, self-directed learning activities, interactive discussion boards and case-based practical material.

**Assumed Background:** Students taking this course will need to be veterinary graduates with a minimum of three years post-graduate clinical experience who are working a minimum of 15h/week, as case-based material will be derived from the students' own clinical cases.

## Course Introduction

This course provides advanced training in the foundational clinical skills required for high quality small animal veterinary practice. The focus will be on practical and applied aspects of disease diagnosis, disease treatment and anaesthesia and emergency care and will suit veterinary graduates with a minimum of 3 years clinical experience as basic theory will be considered assumed knowledge.

Diagnostic skills covered include clinical reasoning, clinical pathology and diagnostic imaging relevant to the small animal veterinary practitioner with case-based pathophysiology, diagnostic plans and core practical skills emphasised.

Therapeutic skills covered include core principles of medicine and surgery, pharmacology, and nutrition relevant to the small animal veterinary practitioner with case-based diagnostic and treatment plans emphasised along with core surgical principles.

Anaesthesia and emergency care skills covered include core principles of anaesthesia and emergency care as well as more advanced skills in fluid therapy, emergency patient assessment, triage and management. Case-based diagnostic and treatment plans in the emergency room will be emphasised along with core pain management and anaesthesia skills.

The course involves weekly lectures and readings, and participation in weekly online discussions via a discussion board and fortnightly live discussions, providing opportunities for supported group learning and networking.

## Course Aims

The aim of this course is to improve and solidify students' case management abilities through advancing their knowledge, confidence and critical thinking skills used for the approach to disease diagnosis, management, and treatment in common medical, surgical and emergency small animal presentations.

## Learning Outcomes

### CVP1020 Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

- CLO 1. Demonstrate a logical problem-based approach to clinical reasoning in the development of an appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic and monitoring plan for common and more complex medical, surgical, and emergency presentations.
- CLO 2. Identify cases that would benefit from or require care beyond that offered at the veterinarian's hospital and collate appropriate documentation for referral.
- CLO 3. Select and explain the theory behind appropriate diagnostic and procedural techniques for certain case scenarios and utilise this knowledge in management of day-to-day caseloads.
- CLO 4. Integrate and apply core principles of medicine, surgery and emergency care to your clinical caseload to demonstrate the provision of quality care.

## AVA CVP Education Pathway Learning Outcomes

Successfully completing this course will contribute to the recognition of your attainment of the following AVA CVP Education Pathway learning outcomes:

AVA CVP Education Pathway Learning Outcomes	CVP1010 Course Learning Outcome
1. Apply comprehensive current knowledge of disciplines of small animal practice and clinical acumen to manage common and more complex cases	1, 2, 3
2. Apply an understanding of how fields and disciplines inter-relate and identify cases that would benefit from specialist input	1, 2, 3, 4
3. Apply critical reasoning and analysis to make informed judgements incorporating the needs of the animal, the client and the veterinarian using an evidence-based approach	1, 2, 3, 4
4. Gather, analyse, and organise information and ideas, and convey those ideas clearly and fluently	1, 2, 3, 4
5. Interact effectively with others to work towards a common outcome, using a variety of appropriate communication strategies to suit your team and clients	1, 2, 4
6. Demonstrate the adaptive and professional abilities and skills required for leadership roles and career progression	1, 2, 4
7. Recognise and manage the factors that contribute to stress, and understand and utilise appropriate strategies to support wellbeing in your practice	-
8. Work and learn independently and effectively, generate ideas and innovatively adapt to changing environments	1, 2, 4
9. Formulate and investigate problems and create solutions to improve current practices	5, 6
10. Apply an understanding of social, legal and civic responsibility, animal welfare, human rights, and sustainability to make ethical, and socially and financially responsible decisions	1, 2, 3, 4

## Specific Course Information

### Weekly module topics and learning outcomes

Week	Course Module	Course Learning Outcome	Teacher	Module Learning Outcomes
1	Fundamental clinical reasoning (1)	1, 4	Caitlin Mack	Demonstrate a problem-based approach to clinical reasoning for working up a common case presentation.  Develop an appropriate case management plan in line with

				clinical reasoning for a common case scenario.
2	Fundamental clinical reasoning (2)	1, 4	Caitlin Mack	<p>Demonstrate a problem-based approach to clinical reasoning for working up a complex case presentation.</p> <p>Develop an appropriate case management plan in line with clinical reasoning for a complex case scenario.</p>
3	Principles of medicine (1)	1, 4	Caitlin Mack	<p>Identify and access appropriate and reliable resources for up-to-date medicine knowledge and information.</p> <p>Apply up-to-date information to medicine cases.</p>
4	Principles of medicine (2)	2, 4	Caitlin Mack	<p>Apply sound systems-based pathophysiology of common diseases to case presentations.</p> <p>Identify cases that would benefit from referral and prepare referral information.</p>
5	Principles of surgery (1)	1, 4	Ryan Leong	<p>Identify and access appropriate and reliable resources for up-to-date surgical knowledge and information.</p> <p>Apply up-to-date information to common surgical case presentations.</p>
6	Principles of surgery (2)	1, 2, 4	Ryan Leong	<p>Outline how a sound neurologic and orthopaedic examination should be performed.</p> <p>Identify surgical cases that would benefit from referral and prepare referral information.</p>
7	Clinical pathology in practice (1)	3	Natalie Courtman	<p>Understand how haematology and biochemistry analysers work to identify common analyser errors.</p> <p>Understand how to minimise and recognise the pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical</p>

				factors that can reduce the accuracy of results.
8	Clinical pathology in practice (2)	3	Natalie Courtman	Recommend and interpret appropriate further tests for organ disease.  Understand advance testing options for leukaemia and lymphoma.
9	Clinical therapeutics (1)	1, 4	Caitlin Mack	Apply basic pharmacological principles to justify various treatment selections for common case scenarios.
10	Clinical therapeutics (2)	1, 4	Caitlin Mack	Identify and access appropriate and reliable resources for up-to-date pharmaceutical knowledge and information.
11	Clinical therapeutics (3)	1, 4	Caitlin Mack	Understand the core principles behind antimicrobial stewardship and identify areas in small animal practice that can be improved to comply with these.
<b>Mid-semester break</b>				
12	Clinical nutrition (1)	1, 4	Matthew Kopke	Perform a complete nutritional assessment.  Formulate a nutrition plan for a healthy animal, an overweight animal, and a hospitalised patient.
13	Clinical nutrition (2)	1, 4	Matthew Kopke	Understand key requirements for the nutritional management of common medical conditions in dogs and cats and formulate appropriate nutritional plans.
14	Principles of anaesthesia (1)	1, 4	Joanne Rainger	Demonstrate understanding of the common drug classes used in anaesthesia including their contra-indications and side-effects.  Apply a sound knowledge in anaesthetic monitoring and use of anaesthetic equipment in small animal practice.
15	Principles of anaesthesia (2)	1, 4	Joanne Rainger	Make appropriate recommendations for

				anaesthesia protocols for a range of clinical cases and presentations.
16	Diagnostic imaging (1)	3	Jane Day	Demonstrate understanding of the core principles in the performance and interpretation of radiography in practice.
17	Diagnostic imaging (2)	3	Jane Day	Demonstrate understanding of the core principles in the utility and performance of ultrasonography in practice.
18	Emergency care (1)	1, 4	Katie Nash	Understand and apply triage principles to management of urgent clinical cases.  Apply an understanding of pathophysiology to the diagnosis and management of cardiovascular, respiratory and haematologic disorders.
19	Emergency care (2)	1, 4	Katie Nash	Develop appropriate fluid therapy and transfusion plans.
20	Critical care (1)	1, 4	Katie Nash	Understand the fundamentals of each aspect of rule of 20 with focus on oxygen support, analgesia, nutritional support.
21	Critical care (2)	1,4	Katie Nash	Apply the rule of 20 to inpatient management.

## Course Learning Resources

### Required resources

All required learning resources will be provided in the AVA My Learning course.

### Recommended resources

A list of recommended resources will be provided at the end of each module within the AVA My Learning course.

## Teaching and learning activities

Activity	Course Learning Outcome
Online written discussion forum engagement	1, 2, 3, 4
Zoom live discussion forum	1, 2, 3, 4

Lectures	1, 2, 3, 4
Reading materials or videos	1, 2, 3, 4
Reflection on learning	1, 2, 3, 4

### Other teaching and learning activities information

It is a course requirement that students positively engage with online discussions and actively participate in live zoom discussions. Attendance at the fortnightly live discussions is compulsory. Some learning activities are compulsory to complete.

### Late cancellation of teaching activity

Whilst we make every attempt to offer all components of this course, this may not be possible due to unforeseen circumstances. In the event of such an occurrence, the AVA will inform you as far as possible in advance, and will make alternative arrangements as soon as practicable.

## Assessment Information

The purpose of **formative assessment** is to monitor student learning and provide ongoing feedback to students and course teachers. It is designed to identify student strengths and weaknesses and can enable student improvement in self-regulatory skills. Formative assessment in this course may be teacher led, peer, or via self-assessment. Whilst formative assessment does not carry a grade, students are required to attempt all assessment items to achieve a passing grade. Some formative feedback assessment will use the same rubric used for summative assessment.

**Summative assessment** is used in this course to evaluate student learning at the end of module instruction and will be compared against the assessment item rubric. Feedback on summative assessment is also provided for students to use formatively and guide their efforts and activities in subsequent assessment and courses.

A **Hurdle** is a learning activity that is compulsory to complete but is not graded as a formative or summative assessment. Contributions to the live discussion boards are mandatory as these activities promote engagement, deeper learning, and reflection. Attendance at the Zoom live discussions is mandatory. To pass this course a minimum of 80% of the sessions must be attended.

### Assessment overview

Assessments in this course include:

- Short regular formative quizzes for feedback on learning
- Four assignments including case evaluations and case management plans, with the first assignment being formative to provide feedback
- Critical evaluation of radiographic sets
- Participation in online discussion board and live Zoom discussions

Further details on assessment requirements including timings and weightings will be provided at the start of the course.

## **Policies and procedures**

Policies and procedures relevant to the AVA CVP Education Pathway are available from

<https://www.ava.com.au/AVA-Chartered-Veterinary-Practitioner/student-information/Policy-and-procedure/>