



GENERAL PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE IN FELINE PRACTICE – GPCert(FelP)

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 diseases will be expected.

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

The Pharmacy

- The Medicines Act
- Storage dispensing and labelling
- Misuse of Drugs Act
- Health and Safety at Work Act
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

Therapeutics

An understanding of the pharmacokinetics, potential interactions and adverse effects of common therapeutics agents (including anaesthetics, anti-inflammatories, analgesics, antimicrobials and antiparasitics)

Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Diagnosis

Sampling techniques (including biopsies), sample processing, storage and recording
Interpretation of clinical laboratory medicine information, including: haematology, biochemistry and endocrine tests, fluid and electrolyte disorders and cytology
Diagnostic tests for infectious diseases – techniques and interpretation (including viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases)

Infectious Diseases and Preventative Healthcare

Clinical pathology of the major bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases affecting cats in Europe
Zoonosis, health and safety concerns and precautions
Legislation and regulations relating to infectious diseases in Europe
Design and use of vaccination and preventative parasitic regimes

Critical Care and Emergency Case Management

Priorities in emergency cases
Triage systems and patient assessment
Patient stabilisation and monitoring
Critical care therapeutics, including fluid and electrolyte therapy, blood and plasma transfusions, cardiovascular and respiratory support and CPR

Diagnostic Techniques

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

Anaesthesia and Analgesia Techniques

Parenteral and inhalational anaesthetic regimes
Anaesthetic equipment and monitoring techniques
NSAIDs, opioids, local anaesthetic and topical treatment options
Anaesthetic emergencies / complications, their causes, prevention

and treatment

Principles of Surgery

Surgical asepsis and theatre protocol
Rational antibiotic use in surgical patients
Suture materials, suture patterns, instruments and tissue handling
Surgical planning and crisis management

Trauma and Wound Management

Haemostasis
Wound management and reconstruction
First aid techniques for fractures and soft tissue injuries

Musculoskeletal Disease

Examination of the lame patient
Radiography, synoviocentesis and other ancillary diagnostic aids
Common orthopaedic problems in the fore- and hind-limb of the cat
Principles of orthopaedic surgery and repair of common fractures

Dentistry

Dental examination, intra-oral radiography and ancillary diagnostic techniques
Diagnosis and treatment of common diseases, including periodontal disease, fractured teeth, odontoclastic resorptive lesions and gingivostomatitis
Preventative health care and routine dental procedures

Gastrointestinal Tract

Common medical conditions affecting the oesophagus, stomach, small and large intestine.
Surgery of the digestive system including rectum, anus and perineum.

The Liver and Pancreas

Application of diagnostic tests
Diagnosis and management of common disorders

Nutrition

Nutrition of healthy cats
Principles of clinical nutrition
Nutritional management of clinical disease including disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, cardiovascular and urinary tract disease

Urinary Tract

Diagnostic techniques, including laboratory investigation of renal disease (acute renal failure, chronic renal failure, glomerular disease, inherited renal disease, lower urinary tract disease)
Investigation and management of common presentations, including cystitis, polyuria / polydipsia and haematuria
Causes and management of common diseases of the kidney, ureters, bladder and urethra
Manifestations of renal disease
Medical and dietary management of renal disease
Principles of renal, ureteral, bladder and urethral surgery

Cardiovascular System

Physical examination and diagnostic techniques (including auscultation, ECG, radiography and echocardiography)
Diagnosis and treatment of common congenital and acquired cardiac diseases
Therapeutics and management of cardiac disease

Respiratory Tract

Diagnostic techniques for respiratory disease (including auscultation, radiography and endoscopy)
Approach to common presentations of respiratory disease (coughing, respiratory noise)
Common medical and surgical disorders of the upper and lower respiratory tract (including congenital abnormalities, infectious diseases, allergic diseases and neoplasia)

Neurology

Performing a neurological examination – what the tests evaluate and how to interpret them
Clinical signs associated with disease in different areas of the nervous system.
Localising lesions in the nervous system.
Diseases of the brain (including seizures), spinal cord, cranial nerves, peripheral nervous system/muscle

Ophthalmology

Practical examination techniques
Recognition of normal features and variants
Diagnostic approach to common presentations, such as the red eye, ocular pain, ocular discharge and blindness
Medical and surgical management of common ocular conditions, including corneal ulceration
Ocular manifestations of systemic disease
Current ocular therapeutics

Dermatology

Laboratory investigation techniques
Clinical signs, management and therapeutics of common conditions (pruritus, alopecia, infectious and auto-immune conditions, allergic disease and neoplasia)
Dermatological manifestations of systemic disease

Endocrinology

Understanding of key diagnostic tests and their application
diagnosis and management of common diseases, including hyperadrenocorticism, hypoadrenocorticism, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus, disorders of the parathyroid glands, acromegaly, diabetes insipidus
Complications encountered during therapy, their prevention and management

Reproductive Tract

Normal reproductive physiology and function
Common causes of infertility
Pharmacological control of breeding and surgical neutering
Pregnancy diagnosis, obstetrics and paediatrics
Reproductive tract surgery including surgery of the mammary glands

Lymphatic and Haemopoietic Disease

Diagnosis and the use of laboratory investigation in disorders of the lymphatic, haemopoietic and immune systems (regenerative anaemia, non-regenerative anaemia, coagulopathies, and immune mediated and lymphatic disease)

Neoplasia

Tumour biology, tumours of major organ systems
Diagnosis and staging of cancer
Principles of surgical management of neoplasia and chemotherapy
Owner counselling and support

Poisoning

Common poisonings from insecticides, molluscicides, rodenticides, herbicides, household preparations, plants

Diagnosis, therapeutics and prognosis of common presentations

Behaviour

- Normal feline behaviour
- Clinical causes of feline behaviour problems
- Inappropriate toileting
- Spraying
- Aggression
- Compulsive disorders
- Behaviour modifying drugs

Clinical Presentations and Differential Diagnoses of the Following Conditions:

- Obesity and weight loss
- Polydipsia/polyuria
- Polyphagia, inappetance, anorexia
- Coughing, dyspnoea and tachypnoea
- Sneezing and nasal discharge
- Ptyalism
- Cardiac murmurs and arrhythmias
- Hypertension and hypotension
- Pleural effusion
- Dysphagia, regurgitation and gagging
- Vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation
- Straining, faecal incontinence, melena
- Urinary incontinence, dysuria and nocturia
- Haematuria and proteinuria
- Reproductive tract discharge
- Pruritus, hair loss, ulcerative skin lesions
- Miliary dermatitis
- Ataxia, paresis and paralysis
- Behavioural disorders
- Seizures
- Anaemia and polycythemia
- Jaundice and bleeding disorders
- Abnormal serum electrolytes
- Mass lesion, peritoneal effusion
- Joint swelling
- Blindness
- Deafness

Feline Housing and Husbandry

- Common breeds and disease predispositions
- Principles of showing and breeding cats
- Control of infectious disease in catteries
- Current issues and debates in feline practice