



# **General Practitioner Certificate**

## **Course Guide**

**Course accredited by:**



**The European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS)** is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2003 by a group of like-minded veterinary surgeons. The General Practitioner Certificates (GPCert) have been designed to meet the needs of busy veterinary surgeons wanting to gain a post-graduate qualification but without having to take excessive time out of their working routine.

The uniqueness of the GPCert is that through the modular programmes candidates are given structured taught and practical sessions from experienced, recognised specialists in their field. The speakers are either university based lecturers or veterinary surgeons working in practice. Candidates have the opportunity to complete the course work and a final written examination, successful completion leads to the award of a GPCert. Candidates are required to complete further study and course work in their own time and guidance and assistance is available throughout the taught course.

On successful completion of the General Practitioner Certificate examination the individual will not only have gained valuable additional skills, but also the confidence and competence to use these skills and knowledge to enhance the value of their practice. Many have used the General Practitioner Certificate as a stepping stone to higher education or have gone on to complete more than one GPCert.

The standard of the General Practitioner Certificate is consistent across Europe and therefore anyone gaining a GPCert, regardless of which country they have taken the exam, will have recognition of achieving a set standard which is recognised across many European countries.

## **PERSONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The General Practitioner Certificate (GPCert) modular programme is a combination of tuition, course sessions and personal reflective learning. Each module is divided into four components.

- On-line pre-module assessment/preparation
- The taught session
- On-line post-module assessment and feedback
- Further reading and research covering the complete course syllabus

### **On-line pre-module preparation**

Before each module delegates will be required to complete a short multiple choice question assessment on-line and answer self-evaluation questions which will help determine your current understanding of the module objectives and enable you to focus on what you need to gain from both the module and independent learning.

The answers to the multiple choice questions will be given when the assessment has been submitted and delegates should reflect on their answers and consider their own personal learning objectives for that module.

Completion of the pre module questions is compulsory for the examination although the actual score does not contribute to the examination mark.

Pre module questions will be sent by email 10-14 days prior to each module with reminders at 7 days and 4 days. The results of the questionnaires are forwarded to the speaker 2 days before the module so that they are aware of any amendments they should make to their presentation to match the needs of the group.

### **Post module review**

Following each module delegates will be required to complete a short multiple choice question assessment on-line and answer self-evaluation questions. On completion, delegates should consider whether they have achieved their own personal learning objectives for that module and complete the areas of study they need to cover in more depth. Delegates should concentrate particularly on how to improve knowledge, skills and learning.

There is also a feedback section.

### **Additional Learning**

Delegates should be aware that to achieve success in the General Practitioner Certificate examination some additional study will be required on both the taught

modules and any areas of the syllabus not covered during the taught course. Delegates should refer to the recommended further reading list and additional reading references given by individual lecturers.

Delegates may find the following information helpful with the learning process.

### **Steps in learning**

In commencing the programme much of the following will be structured for you, but as you will be required to design and manage your own learning the following points are worth noting.

#### **What do you want to learn?**

For each module you will be provided with the module learning objectives. You may already have some knowledge in the subject/s covered and an idea of the information you wish to learn. Whatever your knowledge in a subject it is advisable that you do some prior reading and set some clear learning objectives of your own to gain the maximum benefit from the taught session.

#### **Define specific objectives**

For each module define the general objectives and the specific outcomes you desire. It is useful to decide whether you want a change in knowledge, attitudes and beliefs, and/or skills. The clearer you are about your specific learning outcome the more benefit you will gain from the course. Passively “accepting” the information from the lecturers does not result in deep learning.

#### **Decide steps and sequence**

Break down learning into manageable units. Concentrate on those areas that you find more difficult or outside your experience.

#### **How will you do it?**

What learning activities and resources will you need? These might include books, website resources and DVDs. Additional reading and reference material will be suggested for each module. Check your practice library, RCVS library or local University for additional material.

#### **What help do you need?**

If your practice has other colleague veterinary surgeons, they will often be your first line of enquiry – senior veterinary surgeons can encourage you to take part in suitable cases to expand your knowledge, build confidence, and learn practical skills. Good communication is key, let them know what you are learning.

If you are completing the examination you may also contact ESVPS for additional help/advice. Once you have registered for the exam you will be provided with access to the ‘candidates’ area’ of the ESVPS website which contains information on writing case reports, examples of case reports and a video presentation to help you.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COURSE REVIEW/PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATION**

It is advisable to look back over what you have learned during the modular programme and identify your strengths, weaknesses and any gaps in your knowledge prior to participating in the final examination.

Reviewing consists of:

- Checking to make sure that you have achieved your personal learning outcomes.
- Highlighting what was especially successful and pinpointing the causes of the success.
- Noting any areas of difficulty and making plans to develop and improve them in the future.

Doing a consistent and comprehensive review on the whole course will improve your learning outcomes and will help your preparations for the final examination.

### **Things that go wrong**

When you are reviewing your course, a number of things may go wrong:

- You skip reviewing or do not spend enough time on this stage because you feel that the answers are obvious.
- You only focus on the successes and rationalise away the failures.
- You only focus on the failures and end up depressing yourself.
- You fail to notice the things that actually work well and could be applied in future.
- You theorise, speculate and generalise instead of getting down to the hard 'but valuable' work of specifying in detail what happened and what the effects were.

## **Examination**

### **Commitment**

The principal objective of the General Practitioner Certificate programme is to provide an attainable, balanced qualification for veterinary surgeons working in full-time practice. It is intended that delegates should be able to complete the modular training programme and achieve success in the examination without taking excessive time away from their practice and normal activities.

### **The syllabus**

Delegates enrolling for the General Practitioner Certificate examination should study all parts of the course syllabus.

### **Examination - Requirements:**

#### **Final Examination**

The final examination will comprise multiple choice questions which will cover all areas of the course syllabus. The examination is not compulsory and delegates may just complete the course and not register for the GPCert examination. There is an additional fee to register for the examination. Delegates may either register on-line at [www.esvps.org](http://www.esvps.org) or by a separate registration form which ESVPS will supply.

Delegates must attend the minimum taught modules in order to be eligible to sit the final examination. Delegates may attend the required number of modules over a three year period and sit the final examination in the year that they complete the course.

#### **On-line pre-module and post-module assessments**

Candidates are required to complete their online pre and post module assessments and feedback for the course.

#### **Case report**

Candidates must submit one x 2,500 word case report for the GPCert

Guidelines, submission dates and further information about the General Practitioner Certificate examination can be found at the ESVPS website: [www.esvps.org](http://www.esvps.org) or in the ESVPS examination booklet.

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

### **Programme Enquiries:**

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### **Examination Enquiries:**

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### **Address/email changes:**

So that both SCIVAC and ESVPS can keep delegates informed of course programme and examination details, it is essential that any address changes are notified in writing to both organisations as soon as possible.