




Presentation at BVA Congress  
27-29 September 2007  
Belfast, North of Ireland

PLEASE NOTE:

While this presentation may be quoted from it  
cannot be reprinted in full without the permission  
of the author and the BVA



RCVS Modular Certificates  
in Advanced General  
Practice (CertAVP)

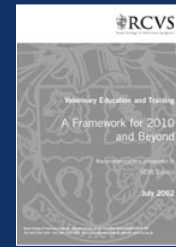
What is happening and why

Professor Sheila Crispin  
Senior Vice-President  
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

The image shows a dark blue rectangular area containing white text and a logo. On the left side, there is a white line-art logo for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), which includes a horse's head, a snake coiled around a staff, and a caduceus. To the right of the logo, the text is arranged in a structured layout: the title 'RCVS Modular Certificates in Advanced General Practice (CertAVP)' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the title is the subtitle 'What is happening and why' in a slightly smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the author's name 'Professor Sheila Crispin' is listed, followed by her title 'Senior Vice-President' and the organization 'Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons'.

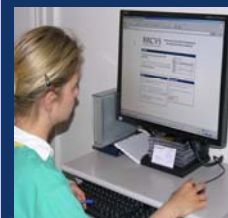
## RCVS Education Strategy Steering Group (ESSG)

- RCVS's Education Strategy Steering Group produced recommendations on veterinary education and training after extensive consultation with the profession in 2001-2002
- The framework they propose offers a more coherent approach to veterinary education and training and the culture of lifelong learning
  - veterinary course;
  - professional development phase (PDP);
  - continuing professional development (CPD);
  - post graduate training and qualifications.
- Can we build on these changes to provide a proper career structure for the profession?



## What are Day-One Competences?

- The essential competences required by each of the UK veterinary schools
- All new graduates are equipped with Day-one Competences at graduation
- Cover three broad areas:
  - General professional skills and attributes
  - Underpinning knowledge and understanding
  - Practical ability
- The **professional development phase** aims to translate day one theoretical competence into year one practical competence



## What are Year-One Competences?

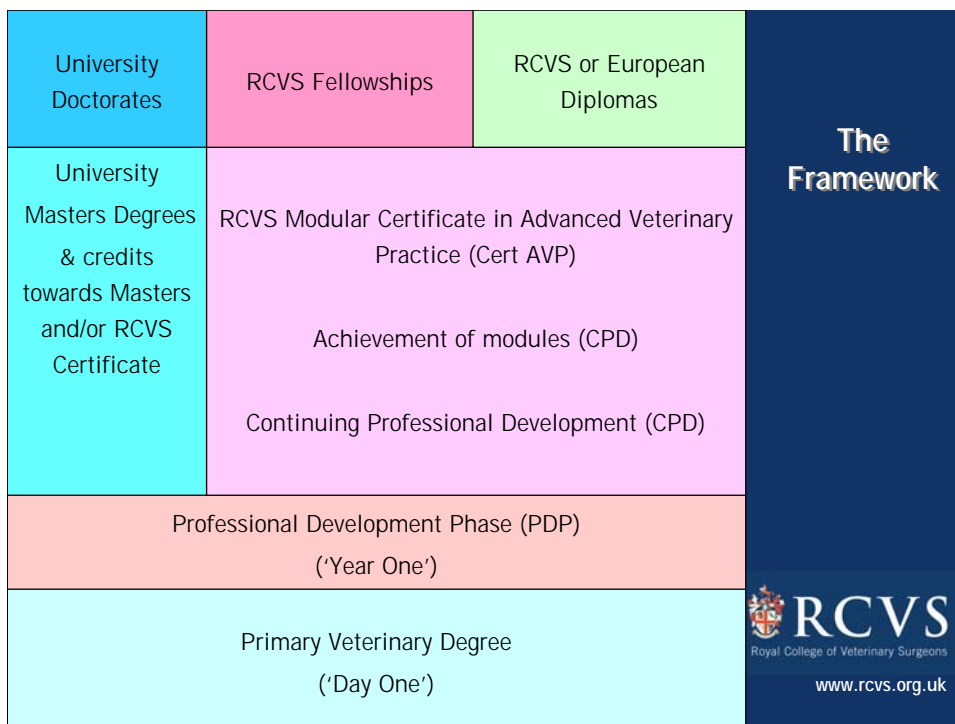
- The set of skills a graduate is expected to have after a year in practice
- New graduates will be expected to have:
  - actual experience of applying these competences in the work place and;
  - be able to perform or manage them without close supervision, in a reasonable period of time, and with a high probability of a successful outcome



## PDP is a link in the chain between...

- Extramural Studies
  - Universities are developing better recording systems (external assessment)
  - Developing skills through use of personal development portfolios (self-assessment)
- Continuing Professional Development
  - Fulfilling PDP requirements serves as the first year of mandatory CPD
- Postgraduate qualifications
  - Completion of PDP is required for enrolment on RCVS certificates





## The 'old' RCVS Certificates:

- Up to 20 separate certificate examinations held annually
- Low completion rate
  - 188 entered examination in 2006 - 83 passed
- Traditional examination:
  - Submitted work/case books
  - Unseen written examination
  - Clinical/oral/practical
  - No flexibility - all or nothing – no credit given for partial achievement
  - Does not allow for people changing career direction
  - 5 year enrolment period



## Why change?

- Need range of postgraduate qualifications accessible to practising veterinary surgeons (not just those in clinical practice)
- A qualification structure that better reflects work requirements
- Independent study and/or taught courses
- More flexibility in choice of modules – fits a wider variety of career interests
- Longer enrolment period to allow for job changes



## Why change?

- Modular structure supports lifelong career development
- Modules compatible with Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) national framework for higher level qualifications
- Improves progression routes – for example, from RCVS certificate to University postgraduate degrees or Fellowships
- Will encourage CPD providers to match their courses to modules – better articulation between short courses and qualifications



# The Modular approach to a Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (CertAVP)

- For more information [www.rcvs.org.uk/modcerts](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/modcerts)
- Veterinary Surgeons can build up credits towards CertAVP - 60 credits needed for Certificate
- Modules divided into 3 groups - A, B and C
- Professional Key Skills (A.PKS.1) and Professional Clinical Skills (B.CKS.0) are compulsory
- Key A module=15, Key B module=5: total 20
- At least one other B module=10
- Other B and C modules usually 10 credits each to reach the total of 60



## Structure of the Modular Postgraduate Certificate

**A-PKS.1**  
15 credits  
Professional Key Skills

A total of 60 credits is required for the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (CertAVP)  
For the CertAVP it is necessary to complete the A-PKS.1 (**15 credits**)

**B-CKS.0**  
5 credits  
Clinical Key Skills

And the B-CKS.0 and another B module (**total 15 credits**)  
(The B-CKS.0 module only needs to be taken **once** in conjunction with another B module; additional B modules are normally worth 10 credits)

**B-SAP.1**  
10 credits  
Small Animal Practice

**B-PAP.2**  
10 credits  
Production Animal Practice

**B-EP.3**  
10 credits  
Equine Practice

**B-LAS.4**  
10 credits  
Laboratory Animal Science

**B-VPH.5**  
20 credits  
Veterinary Public Health

**B-ZM.6**  
10 credits  
Zoological Medicine

**B-XX.7**  
10 credits  
Other

**C-XX.1**  
Other  
10 credits

**C-XX.6**  
10  
Or  
**C-XX.5**  
10  
Or  
**C-XX.4**  
10  
Or  
**C-XX.3**  
10  
Or  
**C-XX.2**  
10  
Other  
10 credits

And either three C modules or a combination of B and C modules (**30 credits**)  
Alternatively, modules can be taken and accredited individually.



## Assessment of the CertAVP

- RCVS will accredit **universities** which will assess candidates and award module credits
- Other organisations may work with universities in partnerships
- Full Certificate qualification will be issued by RCVS
- Or candidates could continue to work towards a university Masters degree – credit accumulation and transfer system
- RCVS to act as a clearing house for credits achieved at a variety of universities



## Routes to RCVS Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice and CPD

- Completion of A + Bs + Cs leads to award of general qualification - **Cert AVP**
- Or
- Completion of specific combinations leads to CertAVP in named subject/species area - (e.g. CertAVP(SAP))
- Or
- Free-standing modules can be taken for ongoing CPD



## The accreditation situation so far:

Middlesex University (accredited)

Royal Veterinary College (accredited)

University of Edinburgh ( submission awaited)

University of Stirling (submission awaited)

### Modules accredited through Middlesex University

Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (VetGP)

- A - Professional Key Skills
- A - Clinical Key Skills
- B - Small Animal Practice
- B - Production Animal Practice
- B - Equine Practice
- C – Professional Responsibility & Practice
- C – Clinical Audit
- C – Consultation Skills



### Modules accredited through the Royal Veterinary College:

- A - Professional Key Skills
  - B - Clinical Key Skills
  - B - Small Animal Practice
  - B - Veterinary Public Health
- C modules:**
- Small Animal Surgery (core)
  - Soft Tissue Surgery A
  - Soft Tissue Surgery B
  - Orthopaedic Surgery A
  - Orthopaedic Surgery B
  - Small Animal Anaesthesia & Analgesia
  - Equine Anaesthesia & Analgesia
  - Zoological Medicine
  - Wildlife
  - Zoo Animals
  - Small Pet mammals
  - Exotic avian species
  - Reptiles
  - Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging in Practice
  - Small animal diagnostic imaging – orthopaedics
  - Small animal diagnostic imaging – soft tissue
  - Large animal diagnostic imaging (a)
  - Large animal diagnostic imaging (b)
  - Basic tissue pathology, necropsy & biopsy
  - Clinical pathology – laboratory diagnostics
  - Small Animal Medicine A
  - Small Animal Medicine B
  - Small Animal Medicine C



## Enrolment with RCVS

- Candidates should enrol with RCVS to ensure their credits are officially logged
- This ensures that achievements are 'banked' and recorded
- £50 initial sign up fee + £25 annual renewal fee
- Simple on-line enrolment system
- Will need to enrol separately with University of your choice to be assessed for individual modules
- RCVS enrolment valid for up to 10 years
- [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk)



*Alistair Neville Other, BVSc, MRCVS*

has been awarded the  
Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice

having successfully completed the following modules

- A1 Professional Key Skills
- B0 Clinical Key Skills
- B1 Small Animal Practice
- B3 Equine Practice
- C6 Diagnostic Imaging
- C9 Small Animal Anaesthesia

12 December 2008

*Registrar's signature*



## Further information?

- Details of module specifications are on RCVS website
- [www.rcvs.org.uk/modcerts](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/modcerts)
- Includes details of module combinations
- Summary of likely assessment methods
- Information on accredited universities updated regularly
- Summary from Seminar on 'Partnerships in Lifelong Learning' held at the RCVS in February 2007 is also on RCVS website

