

ONLINE VETERINARY OPHTHALMOLOGY

Eye conditions are challenging when you're not that confident at dealing with them. The beauty of ophthalmology is that just about everything we need to see to make a diagnosis is right there in front of our eyes. We just need to know what to look at and how to do it. This online ophthalmology course focusses on Canine & Feline ophthalmology. An equine ophthalmology course is in the process of being developed. The course will be presented as PowerPoint tutorials. The modules are subdivided to limit the individual tutorials to plus minus 40 minutes each. PDF course notes will also be supplied. Where applicable short videos will be included.

Each module will conclude with an online test that can be completed. This is a requirement to be accredited with the South African Veterinary council. The Canine and Feline Course is accredited with the South African Veterinary Council and a participant will earn 23 CPD points after completion of the course and the online test. For other Veterinary registration bodies, a completion certificate indicating the total time spend on continuing professional development will be issued.

CANINE & FELINE OPHTHALMOLOGY

1 APPLIED ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

In this module basic applied anatomy and physiology of the eyelids, conjunctiva, third eyelid, cornea, lacrimal system, lens and retina will be covered. The precorneal tear film and aqueous humor production and drainage will also be discussed. The author will not go into a lot of academic details, but this module is kept practical to make the understanding of the modules to follow easier.

AC/4020/20 3 CPD points.

2 EXAMINATION OF THE EYE

In this module all the aspects of a complete ocular examination, concentrating on techniques and equipment that is available in most practices will be addressed. We shall however also discuss more advanced diagnostic techniques for those with more sophisticated equipment. This will also help awareness of what is available in case of referral to a specialist practice. We shall then progress to how to examine the eye, looking at the individual ocular structures.

AC/0301/20 1 CPD point.

3 APPLIED OCULAR PHARMACOLOGY

In this module we shall cover ocular pharmacology, what drugs you should be using and when you should be using them. An overview of the different classes of drugs for example antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, glaucoma medication, tear replacement products as well as antiviral drugs will be discussed. Different formulations of drugs, when to use ointments versus drops as well as other ways of delivering drugs to the eye for example subconjunctival injections and implants will also be included.

AC/0317/20 1 CPD point.

4 THE WEEPY OR DISCHARGING EYE.

In this module the “watery” as well as “mucky” eye will be discussed. Conditions covered in this module include eyelid abnormalities like distichiasis, ectopic cilia, entropion, pagoda eyelid, eyelid neoplasia, nasolacrimal atresia, blocked naso lacrimal ducts and facial wetting syndrome. This module will conclude with looking at the “mucky eye”. Dacryocystitis as well as quantitative and qualitative keratoconjunctivitis sicca will be discussed.

AC/0399/20 2 CPD points.

5 THE RED EYE

This module will equip you to be much better at managing inflammation of the eye. Starting with conjunctivitis with its many causes.

Uveitis is a serious ocular condition. It needs to be recognized early and treated aggressively. Uveitis have several causes and sequelae. Causes [canines], treatment and sequelae will be discussed. Causes of uveitis in the cats will discussed in the Feline module. Although hyphema is very easy condition to diagnose, determining the prognosis and managing these cases can be more challenging. This will be discussed in depth. Glaucoma also leads to a red eye and differentiating glaucoma from uveitis will be discussed, but a more in-depth discussion of glaucoma will form part of the “blue eye” module.

AC/0400/20 3 CPD points.

6 THE BLUE EYE

This module includes glaucoma, lens luxation, cataracts, corneal endothelial degeneration/ dystrophy and lipid aqueous. Glaucoma can be one of the most frustrating ocular conditions to deal with.

We shall concentrate on the differences between primary and secondary glaucoma, diagnosis of glaucoma, the effect of an increased intra ocular pressure on the different ocular structures, clinical signs as well as treatment of glaucoma. Lens luxation is an ophthalmic emergency and early diagnosis and correct treatment is essential to improve the chance of maintaining vision as well as rescuing the eyeball. Cataracts are a common problem especially in dogs, pathophysiology, classification and treatment options will be discussed. Corneal endothelial degeneration leads to severe corneal edema, it is a frustrating condition as there is no real easy solution, this condition will be discussed in detail. Lipemic aqueous is a dramatic condition and often confused with other conditions. Diagnosing and managing these patients will be covered in this module. Corneal ulcers are a common and possible sight threatening condition and leads to a blue cornea. Due to the complexity of corneal disease, ulcerative keratitis will form part of the corneal disease module.

AC/0405/20 4 CPD points.

7 CORNEAL DISEASE

Corneal transparency is critical for vision. All corneal disease leads to some degree of color change of the cornea, including red, blue, white, black, and tan. This module includes easy flow charts on how to approach a non-completely transparent cornea. Ulcerative keratitis will be covered in depth including corneal healing, causes of ulcers, progression of ulcers into melting ulcers and all the different treatment options. We shall also be discussing pigmentary keratitis, chronic superficial keratitis, corneal neoplasia, corneal dystrophy, and degeneration as well as embryological corneal defects. Specific feline corneal diseases for example corneal sequestrum and FHV keratitis will be discussed in the “Feline ophthalmology” module.

AC/0406/20 2 CPD points.



8 OCULAR EMERGENCIES

In this module managing ocular emergencies will be discussed. This will include eyelid laceration, corneal foreign bodies, corneal lacerations & iris prolapse, globe prolapse, retrobulbar abscess, glaucoma and hyphema. Only the emergency approach of glaucoma will be covered in this module. A detailed discussion of glaucoma is available in the “blue eye” module. Lens luxation, deep corneal ulcers and acute onset blindness are also ophthalmic emergencies, but these will be covered in other modules. AC/0338/20 1 CPD point.

9 ACUTE ONSET BLINDNESS

In this module acute onset blindness will be covered. Some conditions that may lead to acute onset blindness for example acute glaucoma, bilateral uveitis, diabetic cataracts, hyphema and enrofloxacin toxicity are covered in other modules and will not be discussed in this module. We shall be concentrating on conditions presenting with acute onset blindness and at the surface a “normal” appearing eye. Therefore, differentiating optic neuritis, SARDS, and central blindness will be discussed. Hypertensive retinopathy will also be covered in this module. AC/0405/20 2 CPD points.

10 FELINE OPHTHALMOLOGY

Although there are some differences between the etiology and treatment for conditions like conjunctivitis, uveitis, corneal ulceration, and glaucoma these conditions are described in the relevant module and will not be covered again in this module. There are however some conditions that are unique to cats. The following conditions will be covered in this module: eyelid agenesis, ocular manifestations of Feline Herpes Virus, diffuse iris melanoma, feline ocular sarcoma as well as drug associated retinal toxicity. AC/0406/20 2 CPD points.

11 OCULAR SURGERY

Detailed notes and videos of the ocular surgeries are included in this module. Referral to an ophthalmology specialist is not always an option in practice. This module on ocular surgery will guide you through surgical decision-making and practical surgical techniques for commonly presented eye conditions.

The following surgical procedures will be covered:

Temporary eversion sutures for entropion in puppies

Entropion surgery

How to remove small eyelid masses [Wedge resections]

Primary closure of eyelid defects

Striate keratotomy for non-healing corneal erosions

Enucleation

Conjunctival pocket technique for the replacement of a prolapsed gland of the third eyelid.

Basic principles of micro surgery will also be discussed.

AC/4019/20 2 CPD points.

