

**Programme Specification**  
**Applies to cohort starting 2010**

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|--|---|
| <b>1. Awarding institution</b>                     | The Royal Veterinary College  |
| <b>2. Teaching institution</b>                     | The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)   |
| <b>3. Programme accredited by</b>                  | N/A   |
| <b>4. Final award</b>                              | Postgraduate Diploma  |
| <b>5. Programme Title</b>                          | Veterinary Physiotherapy  |
| <b>6. Date of First Intake</b>                     | May 2000  |
| <b>7. Frequency of Intake</b>                      | Annually in March   |
| <b>8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study</b>            | Part time; two calendar years   |
| <b>9. Timing of Examination Board meetings</b>     | Annually in May   |
| <b>10. Date of Last Quinquennial Review</b>        | 2006/2007   |
| <b>11. Date of Next Quinquennial Review</b>        | 2011/2012   |
| <b>12. Entry Requirements</b>                      | <p><i>Applicants should have:</i><br/> A degree or diploma in human physiotherapy and be members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (or equivalent EU body) and the Health Professions Council (in the case of overseas students).</p> <p>Postgraduate experience in musculoskeletal medicine is normally preferred.</p> <p>Previous animal handling experience with both large and small animals is essential.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, appropriately qualified non-EU candidates may be considered.</p> <p><i>Other requirements:</i><br/> Applicants from overseas will be required to provide evidence of proficiency in spoken and written English, including scientific usage and comprehension.</p> |
| <b>13. UCAS code</b>                               | N/A   |
| <b>14. JACS Code</b>                               | D200  |
| <b>15. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)</b> | N/A   |
| <b>16. Reference points</b>                        |   |
|  | N/A   |

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**17. Educational aims of programme**

The programme aims to:

- enable Chartered Physiotherapists to apply their professional knowledge, experience and practical skills to the treatment of animal patients as part of a multidisciplinary team
- produce high calibre graduates equipped to play leading roles in the development of the Veterinary Physiotherapy profession
- continue to attract outstanding students, both from within the EU and from overseas

**18. Programme outcomes - the programme offers opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes.**

**Knowledge and understanding of:**

- the theoretical basis underpinning the practice of veterinary physiotherapy
- comparative physiotherapy and clinical skills in relation to the animal patient
- ethical and legal issues in practice
- how the RCVS regulates veterinary practice
- the role of the veterinary physiotherapist in relation to other members of the veterinary team

**Cognitive (thinking) skills:**

- planning;
- logic and reasoning;
- comprehension;
- visual and auditory processing;
- long-term memory.

**Practical skills:**

- basic competence in veterinary physiotherapy techniques
- scientific skills, including critical review of the scientific literature, data collection and report writing skills
- examining animals, assessing their findings and identifying physiotherapy treatment goals
- selecting, justifying and implementing appropriate veterinary physiotherapy treatment programmes
- critically evaluating the efficacy and efficiency of their practice
- effective communication with clients and professional colleagues

**Key skills:**

- communication skills
- group work skills
- personal skills
- interpersonal skills
- scientific writing skills
- presentation skills
- organisational skills
- teaching and training skills
- learning skills
- information gathering and analytical skills
- problem solving skills
- language skills
- information technology skills
- entrepreneurial skills

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**Teaching/learning methods**

Students' skills are developed/reinforced through active participation in:

- lectures
- practical demonstrations
- problem-solving sessions
- seminars
- clinical training syllabus
- regular interaction with course directors, lecturers, peers
- scientific writing lectures
- journal club
- assignment presentations
- data/statistical analysis

**Assessment**

- in-course assessment (two assignments)
- written examinations (two)
- practical examinations (two summative, three formative)
- clinical training syllabus
- formative assignments
- clinical assessment by clinical educators and veterinarians

**19. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards**

**Taught Modules** (Years 1 and 2):

Veterinary Therapy – An Introduction  
Comparative Anatomy  
Comparative Biomechanics  
Behaviour and Pain Management  
Comparative Exercise Physiology  
Recognition and Management of Myopathies  
Orthopaedics and Rheumatology  
Neurology  
Veterinary Physiotherapy  
Research and Revision

**Clinical Syllabus**

Completed over the two year duration of the course

**20. Work Placement Requirements**  
**(BVetMed and FdSc only)**

N/A

**ASSESSMENT**

See attached Assessment and Award Regulations