

Programme Specification
Applies to cohort starting 2011

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