



Royal Veterinary College
University of London

CPD at the Royal Veterinary College

e-CPD: How to enhance your professional skills from your desktop

The first commercial veterinary e-CPD course in the UK was launched by the Royal Veterinary College in May 2003 using a model pioneered by Professor Gilly Salmon at the Open University. This is an ideal mode of study for busy veterinarians, a stimulating and interactive course conducted on line by a subject specialist. The courses are hosted within the RVC Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where participants can access the course materials, participate in group discussions and online sessions, carry out online tasks, and collaborate with a small group of professionals in sharing experiences.

Once registered, all participants are issued with a unique ID, which will allow them to access the VLE and their particular course. Participants will be given detailed guidelines on how to navigate within the VLE and advice on how to participate effectively in an online course. The resources delivered via the VLE will include course notes, published papers, images and radiographs if relevant, and useful Web links. There will be a discussion board and various online tasks..

The e-cpd courses are run completely on line, so there is no need to travel to a distant venue or take time off work. However, for most RVC e-cpd courses course participants are expected to commit at least five hours per week to carrying out the set coursework and collaborating actively with their colleagues. No advanced computer skills are required to take the course apart from a basic confidence on working on the Internet.

There are also some courses that have an online, real-time 'live' meeting place where you can listen to a lecture being given, as well as watch the PowerPoint presentation, view images or video, ask questions, draw on a 'whiteboard', and interact with your fellow students. For these sessions, which are run using a web conferencing tool called Elluminate, participants will be issued with detailed instructions on how to join the online session. Make sure you are an administrator on your computer and can install the software. If you are unsure, please contact your system administrator. Make sure you follow the requirements listed on the next page.

Computer requirements

Computer	An industry-standard personal computer
Hard disk space	At least 2 GB
CD-ROM drive	Double speed or faster (recommended)
Operating systems	Windows Client: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Windows 2000/XP/Vista• Pentium III 500 MHz processor• 256 MB RAM Mac Client: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mac OS X 10.2.8, 10.3.9, 10.4 or 10.5• G3, G4, G5 or Intel Processor Solaris Client: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solaris 10 (SPARC only)• UltraSPARC IIc 30 Linux Client: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Hat Linux (RHEL4), Novell SUSE 9 or 10• Pentium III 500 MHz processor• 256 MB RAM
Display	Resolution 600 x 800 (minimum) 1024 x 768 or higher (recommended) 256 colours (minimum), 65536 colours or higher (recommended)
Modem	Minimum 56 K dial-up or broadband connection (strongly recommended)
Audio	Soundcard with speakers and microphone or headset

English language requirements

You should have an advanced level ability to work in English. It is necessary to express your ideas efficiently and effectively, therefore your ability to read, write and understand the English is essential. If English is not your first your language and if you require further guidance regarding the level of language proficiency required please contact the CPD office for guidance before registering.