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Veterinary Continuing Professional Development Programme 2026

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Welcome to the University of Nottingham's CPD Programme 2026.

Building on the success of previous years, our CPD Programme continues to offer a diverse range of courses tailored to all levels – from new graduates to experienced advanced practitioners.

Our programme offers a range of disciplines, including Farm, Poultry, Small Animal, and Equine. The Equine course led by David Rutherford and Richard Stephenson proved very popular in 2025 and so we advise early booking for the November 2026 dates.

Within our Veterinary Surgical Training Academy (VSTA), you will find a variety of surgical courses designed to enhance your skills. Our 'Core' courses, recognised by Royal College of Surgeons (Eng), include valuable post-course videos to support your ongoing learning. Alongside these popular Academy courses, we are delighted to offer specialist surgical days and welcome Jackie Demetriou, Will Robinson, Jon Hall, Sebastien Behr, Lorraine Fleming and Gareth Arthurs to our CPD surgical teaching faculty for this year.

This year also sees the return of our Stepping Stones programme, designed to provide support the new graduate, or those returning to the veterinary profession.

We have a variety of medicine courses to choose from; a series of days led by Mark Dunning as well as the popular Endoscopy two-day course. Our Introductory and Intermediate Ultrasound days remain a key part of our programme, and we welcome Kate Murphy to the School for her 'Coughing and Sneezing' day in May.

New to the 2026 programme is a Local Anaesthesia course with Kate White, Flo Hillen and Freddie Corletto and we also welcome the addition of a Dermatology day with Steve Shaw.

Discounts for attendance days:

- Book early and save **25%** – offer valid until **31 March 2026**
- For bookings made after this date, enjoy a **10% online booking discount**
- Alumni receive a generous **20% discount** year-round

To book your place or for more information, please visit:

nottingham.ac.uk/vet/cpd

Email: veterinary-cpd@nottingham.ac.uk

Phone: **0115 951 6647**

We look forward to welcoming you to the School of Veterinary Medicine in 2026!

A handwritten signature of Professor Rob White.

Professor Rob White

Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

Sub Dean for CPD
School of Veterinary Medicine and Science
University of Nottingham



Veterinary Surgical Training Academy



Faculty Members



With permission



Gareth Arthurs

PGCertMedEd VetMB CertVR CertSAS DSAS(Orth) FHEA FRCVS

Gareth is experienced in all aspects of small animal orthopaedic surgery and has been an RCVS recognised specialist since 2007. He works as a consultant (specialist) orthopaedic surgeon at Arthurs Veterinary Specialists in Northamptonshire, as Professor of Small Animal Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science and he also works as a consultant for Veterinary Instrumentation.



Sebastien Behr

DVM(Hons) DipECVN MRVCS

Sebastien is the current head of service of the neurology-neurosurgery team at Willows Referral (UK) and neurology consultant for Vet3D. Sebastien was awarded the Diploma of the European College of Veterinary Neurology and is a recognised RCVS Specialist in Veterinary Neurology. He has a special interest in neurosurgery and in particular advanced spinal surgery using 3D printing which he has pioneered at Willows with Vet3D. Sebastien has published numerous original scientific papers and book chapters. He regularly contributes to CPD courses and lectures nationally and internationally.



Jackie Demetriou

BVetMed CertSAS DipECVS FRCVS

Jackie graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 1996 and, after time in mixed practice, completed an internship and residency in Small Animal Surgery at the University of Edinburgh. She has since held academic and specialist referral roles, spending nine years as a Lecturer at Cambridge and now holding a part-time Chair in Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery at the University of Nottingham. While working in private referral practice, she led major soft tissue teams and headed a number of ECVS residency programmes. Jackie has served on ECVS committees and taught extensively worldwide, publishing two textbooks and numerous papers.

Faculty Members



Jon Hall

MA VetMB CertSAS DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

Jon grew up in a veterinary family and spent several years working in first opinion small animal practice. He has held roles at the Royal Veterinary College, the Universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh, and has been head of soft tissue surgery at Wear Referrals since 2019. From 2020–2025 he also served as Professor in small animal surgery at the University of Nottingham. Jon lectures nationally and internationally, publishes widely, and is frequently involved in surgical teaching and postgraduate examinations. His varied experience helps him communicate complex topics clearly.



Will Robinson

BVetMed MSc BSAVA PGCertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Will graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2010 and has since worked in several small animal hospitals across the UK. In 2012 he completed a rotating internship at Willows Referral Service, followed by a three-year small animal surgery residency and an MSc at Bristol Veterinary School. During this period, he also gained a BSAVA postgraduate certificate in surgery. Will became a European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery in 2020. His research interests include minimally invasive techniques, and he particularly enjoys thoracic emergency surgery.



Rob White

BSc BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

Rob is Professor of Small Animal Surgery at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham. Rob has spent his career practicing and teaching in the field of small animal soft tissue surgery, having worked in academia, private practice and industry. He is a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons and holds the RCVS Diploma in Small Animal Surgery (Soft Tissue). Rob is passionate about teaching the art and science of surgery to the veterinary general practitioner.



Core Surgical Skills 1

Wednesday

11 March 2026

Or

Wednesday

15 April 2026

After attending this course, you should have revised and gained both core and new skills in open surgery. You should be able to:

- Demonstrate safe operating techniques
- More confidently handle and use surgical instruments
- Better understand the use and misuse of common suture materials and surgical needles
- Use a variety of surgical knots safely and effectively
- Safely and confidently ligate a vascular pedicle (including the effective use of the modified Miller's knot)

Core Surgical Skills 2

Wednesday

22 July 2026

Or

Wednesday 7

October 2026

The course is designed as a natural progression from the CSS 1 course.

After attending this course, you should have revised and gained core skills in open surgery. You should be able to:

- Demonstrate safe operating techniques
- Perform a number of advanced instrument handling skills
- Understand and appreciate recent innovations in the use of suture materials for wound closure
- Perform a urinary cystotomy in a safe and confident manner
- Perform an end-to-end anastomosis of the small intestine in a safe and confident manner
- Understand the pros and cons of leak testing a cystotomy and enterotomy/enterectomy
- Understand the importance of, and be able to perform, tying a surgical knot under tension

These highly practical workshop-led courses are based on the Royal College of Surgeons' Intercollegiate Basic Surgical Skills course which is curriculum mandated training for core surgery training in the medical profession. Attendance at these courses will qualify for the full set of video presentations demonstrating all of the skills taught during the day of your attendance.

Each day is delivered by **Professor Rob White**, RCVS Recognised Specialist in Small Animal Surgery (Soft Tissue) at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, Sutton Bonington and priced at **£350 per day**.

Spinal Surgery from Decompression to Stabilisation

Tuesday 24 and Wednesday

25 March 2026

CPD hours: 16

Fee: £2,495

Speaker: Sebastien Behr DVM(Hons)

DipECVN MRCVS

This two-day course will cover topics related to spinal surgery using a combination of lectures alongside wet and dry lab practice representing over 50% of the time. The clinical presentation and diagnostic procedures for thoracolumbar disc disease, lumbo-sacral stenosis and cervical disc disease will be reviewed. Case selection for surgery and surgical planning will be discussed prior to the practical sessions. Tailored supervision will be provided during the practical sessions and case discussion encouraged.

Topics covered:

The following neurosurgical procedures will be covered during this course:

- Thoracolumbar decompression: hemilaminectomy, mini-hemilaminectomy and corpectomy
- Lumbosacral dorsal laminectomy and stabilisation
- Cervical decompression: ventral slot decompression and cervical hemilaminectomy
- Atlanto-axial stabilisation
- Dry lab with 3D printed bone models and guides for vertebral stabilisation
- Dry lab with pedicle screw and rod system for vertebral stabilisation

Learning objectives:

- Be more confident in case selection for decompressive surgery of the cervical, thoracolumbar and lumbo-sacral spine
- Be more confident in case selection for vertebral stabilisation
- Improve your surgical planning in spinal surgery
- Practise common decompressive and stabilisation techniques
- Awareness of complications and their management in common spinal surgeries

This course has mainly been designed for clinicians keen to grow their experience in neurosurgical procedures as well as residents enrolled on a European College of Veterinary Neurology (ECVN) or ACVIM (Neurology) residency. The course may also be of interest to European College of Veterinary Surgery (ECVS) or American College of Veterinary Surgery (ACVS) surgical residents.

The course is very generously sponsored by Veterinary Instrumentation (VI) and B. Braun Medical Ltd. Delegates will have access to the B. Braun Aesculap Elan 4 - the next generation of electric power systems for neuro and spinal surgery. The dry lab with 3D printed models and guides is sponsored by Vet3D.



Surgical Management of Urethral Obstruction in the Cat

Tuesday 21 April or
Tuesday 13 October 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This highly practical one-day course will focus on the surgical management of urethral obstruction in the cat. The course will be very practical in nature and will take place in the wet-lab of the Centre. All surgical procedures will be demonstrated before delegates are given the opportunity to perform each procedure for themselves. Where appropriate the course will also include explanatory seminars and tutorials.

Topics covered:

- Surgical anatomy urogenital tract in the male cat
- Diagnosis and emergency management options for urethral obstruction in cats
- How to place a tube cystostomy
- When and how to perform a perineal urethrostomy

Learning objectives:

- Surgical principles in the management of urethral obstruction in the cat
- The appropriate use of perineal urethrostomy in the management of urethral obstruction in the cat
- Hands-on practical experience of the perineal urethrostomy procedure
- Outcomes, risks, complications – and their management – associated with perineal urethrostomy

The course is aimed at the general practitioner with a keen interest and knowledge of small animal surgery. Delegates should have some surgical experience and possess a basic working knowledge of the condition of urethral obstruction in the cat. The course would also be very applicable to veterinary surgeons undertaking a surgical internship or surgical certificate.



Everyday Ophthalmic Surgery

Wednesday 5 August 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Lorraine Fleming BVetMed
CertVOphthal MRCVS

This course is aimed at general practitioners who would like to enhance their ophthalmic surgical skills and improve their patient outcomes. This day is designed to be highly applicable to first opinion practice, providing tips and tricks to improve your techniques and avoid potential complications.

This practical day will give you the confidence and knowledge to perform accurate eyelid surgery. We will concentrate on situations common in general practice such as eyelid mass removal, entropion surgery, third eyelid gland replacement and keratotomy procedures with contact lens replacement. The day will provide a combination of theory and practical content, with plenty of opportunity for hands-on surgical practice on cadavers, including the use of magnification to improve your microsurgical skills.

Topics covered:

- Preparing yourself, your patient and your instrumentation for surgery
- Wedge resection and entropion techniques in dogs and cats
- Third eyelid surgery for cherry eye replacement and scrolled cartilage repair
- Options for keratotomy in non-healing ulcers
- Improving your enucleation technique

Learning objectives:

- Identify and select correct instrumentation for specific ophthalmic procedures
- Achieve good eyelid margin apposition following eyelid mass removal
- Explain the principles of appropriate entropion correction
- Identify when keratotomy procedures are appropriate for treating non-healing ulcers
- Appreciate different methods for removing the eye and improve your surgical technique



Surgical Management of Laryngeal Paralysis

Tuesday 18 August 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed
DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS
SFHEA FRCVS

This highly practical one-day course will focus on the surgical management of laryngeal paralysis in the dog and cat. The course will be very practical in nature and will take place in the wet lab of the centre. All surgical procedures will be demonstrated before delegates are given the opportunity to perform each procedure for themselves. Where appropriate the course will also include a number of explanatory seminars/tutorials.

Topics covered:

- Diagnosis of laryngeal paralysis
- Surgical anatomy of the larynx
- Surgical management of idiopathic laryngeal paralysis
- Comparison of the disease and its management between the dog and cat

Learning objectives:

- Surgical principles in the management of idiopathic laryngeal paralysis
- The appropriate use of surgical procedures in the management of laryngeal disease in the dog and cat
- Hands-on practical experience of arytenoid lateralisation (tieback)
- Outcomes, risks, complications - and their management - associated with each surgical procedure

Delegates should have significant surgical experience and possess a thorough working knowledge of the condition of laryngeal paralysis in the dog. The course would also be very applicable to veterinary surgeons undertaking a surgical internship or residency.



Intermediate Gastrointestinal Tract Surgery

Tuesday 8 September 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This unique and comprehensive Veterinary Surgical Training Academy's intermediate level course covers the basic and intermediate techniques of suturing, instrument handling and stapling when used to perform gastrointestinal tract surgery in small animals. It is a practical hands-on intensive one-day workshop covering the full range of commonly performed gastric and small and large bowel procedures. These are fundamental techniques that all general small animal surgeons should know and be proficient to perform confidently and safely. During the workshop the techniques will be explained and demonstrated before each delegate is able to carry out the procedure themselves under close supervision. You can expect to carry out numerous fundamental surgical procedures during the day with emphasis on how each procedure can be performed in a reliable and safe manner.

Topics covered:

- Instrumentation and suture guidance for gastrointestinal tract surgery
- Hand sewn bowel anastomoses, enterotomies and enterectomies
- Use of stapling devices for small bowel anastomoses and enterectomies
- Gastric: pyloroplasty, gastrotomy, partial gastrectomy and gastropexy
- Small bowel: full thickness biopsy, enterotomy, enterectomy
- Large bowel: colopexy

Learning objectives:

- Surgical principles, instrumentation and suture requirements for safe gastrointestinal tract surgery in small animals
- Hands-on practical experience of gastrotomy, partial gastrectomy, pyloroplasty, gastropexy, small bowel enterotomy, full thickness biopsy, enterectomy and anastomosis and colopexy
- The safe use of surgical stapling equipment in gastrointestinal tract surgery
- Outcomes, risks, complications - and their management - associated with each surgical procedure

The course is suitable for qualified veterinary surgeons at any level of training especially those actually performing gastrointestinal tract surgery on a regular basis. Ideally (but not essential), delegates will have already attended the VSTA's Veterinary Core Surgical Skills course.



A Practical Introduction to Small Animal Thoracic Surgery

Tuesday 15 September and Wednesday 16 September 2026

CPD hours: 16

Fee: £2,495

Speakers: Will Robinson BVetMed MSc BSAVA PG CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS

Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This is a two-day course aimed at providing the basic knowledge and understanding of the key principles of thoracic surgery, with a mix of lectures and practical sessions. Delegates will learn the key approaches of the thoracic cavity as well as some of the more commonly performed procedures in the thorax, such as a lung lobectomy and pericardiectomy.

Topics covered:

- Equipment and instrumentation
- Anaesthesia and analgesia techniques
- Thoracostomy tube placement
- Thoracic surgical approaches
- Lung lobectomy
- Pericardiectomy
- Surgical conditions of the thorax including pneumothorax, pyothorax, patent ductus arteriosus

Learning objectives:

- Understand the key principles of anaesthesia relevant to thoracic surgery
- Place a thoracostomy drain in a safe and confident manner
- Safely perform an approach to the thoracic cavity (lateral thoracotomy and median sternotomy)
- Perform a lung lobectomy in a safe and confident manner
- Perform a pericardiectomy in a safe and confident manner
- Understand the key principles when managing a range of thoracic surgical conditions, including spontaneous pneumothorax and patent ductus arteriosus ligation

This course would ideally be suited towards general and advanced practitioners who are relevantly confident with their general surgical skills and are looking to understand and gain confidence in how to perform thoracic surgery.



Feline Orthopaedics – the Pelvis and Hindlimb (Intermediate Level)

Friday 18 September 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Gareth Arthurs PGCertMedEd VetMB CertVR CertSAS DSAS(Orth) FHEA FRCVS

This intermediate level course is a highly practical day based on common orthopaedic conditions of the hindlimb. Practical and dissection time will be maximised, and theoretical 'teaching' time will be minimised.

Topics covered can be adjusted to suit the delegates' learning requirements, depending on class size, disparity of requirements and delegate requests. This will be determined by completion of a pre-course questionnaire and used to define learning objectives particularly tailored to the delegates.

Topics covered:

- Surgical approach to the feline hip
- Surgical approach to the feline ilial wing and ilial body
- Surgical approach to the femur
- Hip: capital physeal fracture repair, hip luxation stabilisation, femoral head and neck excision arthroplasty
- Ilial body fracture repair
- Sacroiliac fracture luxation

This course is suitable for those with previous experience of orthopaedic surgery – basic tissue and instrument handling skills. It would be suitable for those with knowledge of how to apply locking and non-locking plates.



Intermediate Urinary Tract Surgery

Tuesday 29 September 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This intermediate level course covers the basic and intermediate techniques of suturing and instrument handling when used to perform urinary tract surgery in small animals. It is a practical hands-on intensive one-day workshop covering the full range of commonly performed urinary tract procedures. These are fundamental techniques that all general small animal surgeons should know and be proficient to perform confidently and safely. During the workshop the techniques will be explained and demonstrated before each delegate is able to carry out the procedure themselves under close supervision. You can expect to carry out numerous fundamental surgical procedures during the day with emphasis on how each procedure can be performed in a reliable and safe manner.

Topics covered:

- Instrumentation, suture guidance and suturing techniques for urinary tract surgery
- Principles and practice of renal biopsy
- Principles and practice of tube cystostomy
- Cystotomy and partial cystectomy, and their closures
- Principles and practice of ureteral surgery including transplantation
- Principles, uses and practice of deferentopexy

Learning objectives:

- Surgical principles, instrumentation and suture requirements for safe urinary tract surgery in small animals
- Hands-on practical experience of tube cystostomy, cystotomy, partial cystectomy, ureteral transplantation
- Outcomes, risks, complications – and their management – associated with each surgical procedure

The course is suitable for qualified veterinary surgeons at any level of training especially those actually performing urinary tract surgery on a regular basis. Ideally (but not essential), delegates will have already attended the VSTA's Veterinary Core Surgical Skills course.



Core Orthopaedics

Friday 2 October 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £395

Speaker: Gareth Arthurs PGCertMedEd VetMB CertVR CertSAS DSAS(Orth) FHEA FRCVS

Over one highly practical day (minimal lectures, maximum practical time), you will learn and revise basic orthopaedic surgical skills that are necessary for everyday basic orthopaedics. This is a practical, workshop-led course. Each skill is introduced with a step-by-step demonstration, before participants practise the technique either individually or in pairs. You will receive continual feedback and assessment throughout the day.

Topics covered:

- Identification, safe and correct handling of orthopaedic equipment including power tools
- Basic fracture classification
- Techniques for internal fixation including correct application of
 - K-wires
 - Tension band
 - Bone screw, plate screw and positional screw
 - Lag screw
 - Plate application to bone; dynamic compression, neutralisation and bridging modes

Learning objectives:

- Confidently handle and know how to use orthopaedic instruments and power tools
- Understand basic fracture classification
- Understand which bone/fracture stabilisation technique to use; when and how
- Understand correct screw application; when and how
- Understand correct plate application; when and how
- Understand correct pin and tension band application; when and how

This course is suitable for any veterinary surgeon with an aptitude and interest in orthopaedics who wants to take the next step (or refresher steps) for basic orthopaedic techniques that are used and applied in all orthopaedics.

It is best suited to new graduates, veterinary surgeons who have not performed orthopaedics for a long time, or veterinary surgeons who wish to refresh the basics.



Masterclass in Tibial Plateau Levelling Osteotomy (TPLO)

Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October 2026

CPD hours: 16

Fee: £2,495

Speaker: Gareth Arthurs PGCertMedEd VetMB CertVR CertSAS DSAS(Orth) FHEA FRCVS

This highly practical two-day Masterclass will be dedicated to understanding and performing TPLO surgery.

Day 1: The first day will cover theoretical principles and practice of TPLO including plastic bone exercises and bone templating.

Day 2: The second day will be dedicated entirely to cadaveric surgical exercises of TPLO. The course will critique the post-operative radiographs of delegates' TPLO surgeries, allowing individuals to learn from each other's performance.

Topics covered:

- History and evolution of the TPLO technique
- Case selection
- Pre-operative templating
- The TPLO surgical procedure including tips and tricks to make the operation as safe and repeatable as possible
- Post-operative radiographs; assessment and critique
- Managing issues with plating and tips to make the surgery safe and repeatable

Delegates should have intermediate experience of orthopaedic surgery including familiarity with making osteotomies and internal fixation of fractures. Delegates should also be familiar with stifle anatomy and surgical approach, performing an arthrotomy, inspecting and resecting meniscal lesions. Delegates should also understand fixation techniques including non-locking plates, compression and neutral screws and locking plates.



Emergency Surgery for the General Practitioner

Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 November 2026

CPD hours: 16

Fee: £1,950

Speaker: Jon Hall MA VetMB CertSAS DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This two-day course will provide a sensible, pragmatic and practical approach to the more common surgical emergencies seen in general and OOH practice. Day 1 is highly practical to facilitate enough time for several intra-abdominal surgical procedures. Day 2 will reflect on the peri-operative presentation and management of haemo-abdomen and gastric dilation volvulus followed by upper airway obstructive conditions and there will be opportunity to place a tracheostomy tube placement, chest drains and jugular lines.

Topics covered:

- The key features of accurate, prompt diagnosis and stabilisation to improve the survival of common surgical emergency presentations, including haemo-abdomen and upper respiratory tract obstruction
- Practical procedures day 1: exploratory coeliotomy, with the opportunity to practise (amongst many other intra-abdominal surgeries) splenectomy, gastropexy, enterectomy and placing cystostomy tubes
- Practical procedures day 2: the practical procedures to place tracheostomy tubes, jugular lines, oesophageal tubes, chest drains and performing an epidural

Learning objectives:

- Improved understanding of target based resuscitation to maximise survival with haemo-abdomen and gastric dilation volvulus
- Recognise and practice procedures that can improve survival, even if the underlying condition is not cured (for example, with upper respiratory obstruction, lower urinary tract obstruction or pleural space disease)
- Build confidence performing surgical procedures for common emergency presentations

This course is designed for anyone who wishes to develop their ability and confidence in out-of-hours surgical procedures, from early graduates through to more experienced vets who have less surgical support in practice. This course will also benefit those who wish to update their approach to perioperative stabilisation and surgical practice.



Oncological Surgical Principles and Reconstruction

Thursday 5 November and Friday 6 November 2026

CPD hours: 16

Fee: £1,950

Speaker: Jon Hall MA VetMB CertSAS DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This two-day course will review the principles of oncological surgery with an engaging combination of seminars and practical procedures. Day 1 will introduce the language of oncological surgery and consider the appropriate application of surgery depending on tumour type, location and animal/owner factors. Biopsy and surgical treatment of common abdominal visceral masses will be practiced. Day 2 will focus on reconstruction following excision of superficial masses, considering the core principles of skin flap procedures to maximise the chance of a successful outcome, with the inclusion of challenging locations on the head and distal limb. Techniques to simplify reconstruction and reduce complications following surgery will be emphasised and there will be the opportunity to practice more complex reconstructive procedures to help in these awkward locations.

Topics covered:

- Principles of oncological surgery, including the pragmatic approach to mast cell tumours and sarcoma
- Practical surgical procedures to include abdominal mass removal (splenectomy, liver lobectomy, enterectomy and nephrectomy)
- Reconstruction principles and options for challenging locations
- Practical surgical procedures of skin flaps

Learning objectives:

- Improved understanding of the terminology and approach to oncological surgery
- Increased confidence in managing intra-abdominal neoplasia
- Recognition of the importance of different neoplasia biological behaviours with relevance to surgery
- Understand and practice skin flaps to minimise complications and recognise when they are, or maybe more importantly, are not indicated

This course is suitable for anyone wanting to develop a better logical approach to oncological surgery and make well informed decisions regarding the relevance and application of surgery for different tumours in different anatomical locations.



Electrosurgery for the General Practitioner

Tuesday 10 November 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speaker: Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This unique Veterinary Surgical Academy's course covers the theory and clinical use of energy devices in veterinary surgery. It is a practical hands-on one-day workshop covering three main areas of energy use in surgery; monopolar and bipolar electrosurgery, tissue-sealing advanced bipolar electrosurgery and ultrasonic (harmonic) technologies. During the workshop the techniques and technologies will be explained and demonstrated before each delegate is able to use each device in a safe and controlled environment. Emphasis will be placed on the safe and reliable use of each device.

The course is generously supported by Johnson & Johnson Animal Health and Veterinary Instrumentation.

Topics covered:

- Types and clinical use of energy in surgery
- Electrosurgery – monopolar and bipolar technologies
- Advanced bipolar – vessel sealing technologies
- Ultrasonic technologies

Learning objectives:

- Types and uses of energy devices in clinical veterinary surgery
- Principles and practice of monopolar and bipolar electrosurgery
- Principles and practice of advanced bipolar tissue-sealing electrosurgery
- Principles and practice of ultrasonic surgery
- Outcomes, risks and complications associated with each energy source

The course is suitable for qualified veterinary surgeons at any level of training especially those with an active interest in surgery. The course would also be very applicable to veterinary surgeons undertaking a certificate in veterinary surgery. The course will be limited to a maximum of 12 delegates to ensure an unsurpassed learning experience. Ideally (but not essential), delegates will have already attended the VSTA Core Surgical Skills course.



A Practical Approach to Perineal Hernias

Tuesday 24 November 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Jackie Demetriou BVetMed CertSAS DipECVS FRCVS

This highly practical day offers surgeons in-depth training in the surgical management of perineal hernias. Through step-by-step demonstrations and cadaver-based practice, participants will learn how to approach these challenging cases with confidence. The course will cover relevant anatomy, patient selection, peri- and postoperative care, and surgical repair techniques. It is ideal for general practitioners looking to strengthen their surgical skills and enhance patient care in this complex condition.

Topics covered:

- Clinical signs, medical and surgical management of perineal hernias
- Simple, through to more complex hernia presentations
- Surgical approach focusing on internal obturator flaps
- Additional surgical techniques for complex cases (semitendinosus flaps, use of mesh)

Learning objectives:

- Understand the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology of perineal hernias in dogs
- Recognise appropriate cases for surgery and plan perioperative management to optimise outcomes
- Develop hands-on surgical skills through cadaver-based practice, including key repair techniques
- Identify and avoid common pitfalls and complications, ensuring safe and effective patient care

This course is aimed at confident intermediate and advanced level surgeons who have encountered perineal hernia cases in practice but have not attempted surgical management, or who would like to refine their technique with these cases.



A Practical Approach to Salivary Mucoceles

Wednesday 25 November 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Jackie Demetriou BVetMed CertSAS
DiPECVS FRCVS

This practical day will provide general practitioners with a focused, hands-on approach to the diagnosis and surgical management of salivary mucoceles. Through a combination of lectures, case discussions, and cadaver-based surgical practice, participants will gain confidence in recognizing clinical presentations, choosing appropriate diagnostic techniques, and performing salivary gland excision. The course will place particular emphasis on practical tips, avoiding common pitfalls, and ensuring optimal outcomes.

Topics covered:

- Anatomy and pathophysiology of salivary mucoceles
- Mandibular, parotid, zygomatic, pharyngeal mucoceles
- A surgical approach to mandibular mucoceles

Learning objectives:

- Understand the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of salivary mucoceles
- Appreciate the anatomy of mandibular, parotid, and zygomatic mucoceles
- An in-depth dive into the surgical approach and management of mandibular mucoceles

This course is aimed at confident intermediate and advanced level surgeons who have encountered salivary mucoceles but have not yet had the confidence to tackle them. We will cover aspects of all types but focus on the most common (> 90% cases) mandibular mucoceles from initial diagnosis to final management postoperatively.



Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)

Friday 27 November 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Jon Hall MA VetMB CertSAS
DiPECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This one-day blended theory and practical course will review both the routine and emergency presentations of BOAS, a condition increasingly encountered in first opinion practice and associated with significant welfare implications. The course will explore how to objectively assess disease severity to guide appropriate interventions or confidently recommend referral, using worked examples to support decision-making.

Participants will then perform modified flap palatoplasty, alarplasty combined with alar wing resection, and tonsillectomy. As the risks associated with investigating and treating these conditions can be considerable, the course will also focus on temporary tracheostomy and the management of potential complications.

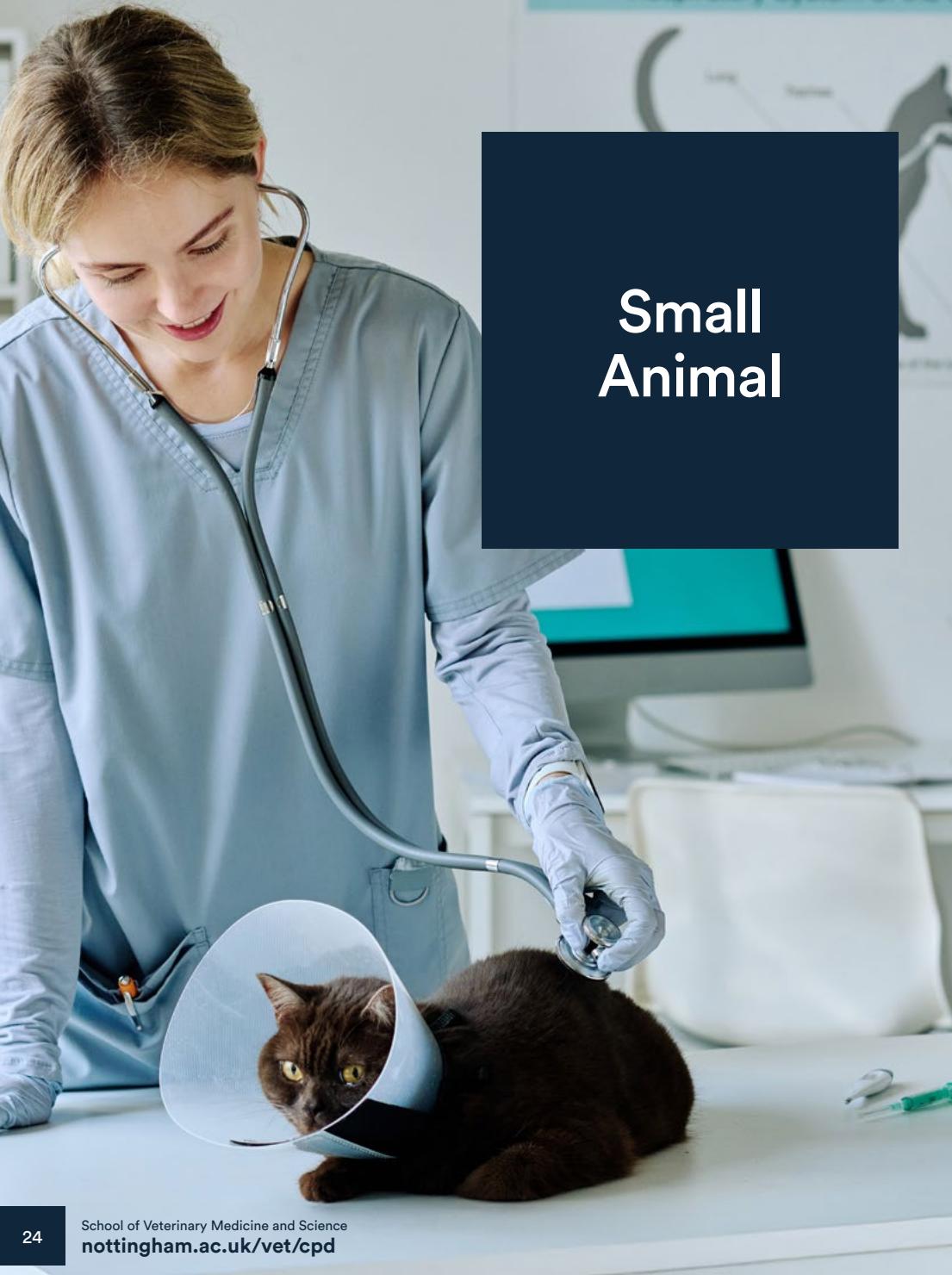
Topics covered:

- Routine and emergency presentation BOAS
- Complications arising from BOAS surgery
- Surgical procedures for BOAS
- Emergency temporary tracheostomy and postoperative management

Learning objectives:

- Understand functional grading and the combination of clinical history and examination in determining treatment options for dogs with BOAS
- Review the surgical procedures available for BOAS, and how a tailored application of these to the individual features of an animal are important
- Practise the surgical procedures most commonly required
- Recognise the risk associated with these surgical interventions and the pre-operative care required
- Practise temporary tracheostomy to manage upper respiratory obstruction and consider when referral may be a better option than immediate intervention





Small Animal

Coughing, Sneezing and Snorting: Approach to the Patient and Practical Approach to Diagnostics

Wednesday 13 May 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speaker: Kate Murphy BVSc(Hons) DSAM DipECVIM-CA PGCert(HE) FRCVS

This course provides a structured, logical approach to assessing patients with respiratory signs. It covers the localisation of lesions, common causes of respiratory issues, and a systematic diagnostic approach. Through case-based discussions, participants will explore common differentials and appropriate treatment strategies. A practical component will focus on the safe use of airway endoscopy and techniques to maximise diagnostic yield.

Topics covered:

- Assessment of the patient with airway disease
- Diagnosis and treatment of the patient with airway disease
- How to use endoscopes in the nose and airways

Learning objectives:

- Assess and localise the main area of concern in the respiratory tract
- Discriminate between different differential diagnoses using history, physical examination and results of diagnostic tests
- Choose appropriate investigative tests
- Practise basics of rhinoscopy/bronchoscopy

This course is aimed at practitioners of all levels of experience who would like to bring themselves up to date on the diagnosis and management of these commonly presenting conditions.

25%
discount for
booking before
31 March
2026

Otitis: A Modern Framework for Treatment

Wednesday 17 June 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speakers: Stephen Shaw BVetMed DVD PhD MRCVS

Alyson Quieros BVSc(Hons) CertAVP (Veterinary Dermatology) MRCVS

Otitis is common, frustrating and difficult to treat. This course will allow you to develop a clear clinical framework for treating ear disease in your practice and will consider the causes, diagnosis and treatment of otitis externa and otitis media. We will examine the often competing factors of cost, antibiotic stewardship, and the quality of life for both owners and patients, while also providing a comprehensive overview of current treatment options.

Topics covered:

- Causes and complications of otitis
- Diagnosis and treatment choices
- Prevention and long-term treatment strategies

Learning objectives:

- Describe the role of inflammation and dysbiosis in ear disease
- Take and interpret ear cytology
- Use the PSPP system to optimize treatment plans for otitis based on historical, clinical and laboratory data
- Develop clear strategies to monitor and prevent recurrence of ear disease

This course is aimed at veterinary surgeons treating otitis in dogs and cats that want to develop their knowledge and skills. The course will provide opportunities to discuss current practice and explore common problems.



Introduction to Practical Endoscopy

Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 June 2026 (two-day)

Or

Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 October 2026 (two-day)

CPD hours: 16

Fee: £1,950

Speakers: Mark Dunning MA VetMB PhD CertSAM DipECVIM-CA FRCVS

Rob White BSc (Hons) BVetMed DSc CertVA DSAS (Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS

This practical two-day hands-on course will focus on the techniques of both flexible and rigid endoscopy in the dog. The course will provide an overview of selecting and handling endoscopes and cover the techniques used in endoscopy of the upper and lower intestinal tract, the respiratory tract and lower urinary tract. The delegates will enjoy the opportunity to perform endoscopy in the School's wet-lab and enjoy extensive hands-on opportunities over the two days.

Topics covered:

- Upper intestinal endoscopy (including acquiring biopsies and foreign body removal)
- Lower intestinal endoscopy (including ileal entry)
- Lower respiratory tract endoscopy (including endoscopic BAL and foreign body removal)
- Lower urogenital tract in the bitch

Learning objectives:

- The basic principles of endoscopy and how to select the most appropriate endoscopic equipment for intestinal, respiratory and urinary tract endoscopy
- The manipulation and direction of both rigid and flexible endoscopes *in vivo*
- The technique for obtaining endoscopic biopsies and endoscopic foreign body removal
- Be proficient in the J-maneuvre
- Be proficient in negotiating the pylorus

This course is designed for veterinary surgeons with all levels of experience. It will provide invaluable experience for those who are new to endoscopy and those veterinary surgeons wanting to gain further experience with using endoscopes and refining their technique. The course would also be of value to those veterinary surgeons undertaking further professional qualifications in small animal medicine.



10 Top Tips for Medicine

Wednesday 15 July 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speaker: Mark Dunning MA VetMB PhD
CertSAM DipECVIM-CA FRCVS

With over 20 years of experience in referral medicine, the course deliverer will discuss his reflections on some of the most challenging aspects of managing small animal internal medicine cases. The course will showcase and explore '10 top tips' drawn from these experiences, aimed at keeping clinical practice both engaging and rewarding. In addition, hands-on workshops using real case studies will promote discussion on effective strategies for managing cases within the practical constraints of varying resources and time in a clinical setting.

Learning objectives:

- How to be more confident in approaching medicine cases in primary care practice
- Be more confident in diagnostic test selection
- Be more effective at interpreting diagnostic test results.
- Making better use of the resources available in primary care practice

This course is suitable for anyone with an interest in canine and feline medicine. This will be relevant for primary care practitioners and those with a particular interest in internal medicine, including those enrolled for further qualifications.

Doing More with Less – Successful and Cost Effective Internal Medicine for the GP

Monday 14 September 2026 – Day 1

Tuesday 17 November 2026 – Day 2

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495 per day

Speaker: Mark Dunning MA VetMB PhD
CertSAM DipECVIM-CA FRCVS

This pair of interactive, case-based CPD days is designed to help primary care clinicians make the most of their approach to medical cases using the resources and budgets available to them. Together, these two complementary courses will build a clear, problem-focused strategy for investigating and managing medical cases within primary care, with the aim of achieving more satisfying outcomes—particularly when referral is not an option.

The course will draw on real cases from primary care practices that were either referred or presented for advice, using these examples to highlight ways in which referral might have been avoided.

Through a combination of workshops and case-based learning, we will explore:

- How to approach medical cases to achieve more meaningful results
- How to select reasonable options when working with limited resources
- How to maximise the value of each diagnostic test
- How to apply a problem-based approach to strengthen confidence in decision-making

Learning objectives:

- Develop a solid understanding of the problem-based approach to medicine
- Be confident in generating working differentials lists to improve confidence in case progression
- Understand how to make the appropriate choices in test selection
- How to audit case progression and how to amend treatment plans with limited resource availability

These courses are suitable for anyone with an interest in canine and feline medicine. This will be relevant for primary care practitioners and those with a particular interest in internal medicine, including those enrolled for further qualifications.



A Logical Approach to First Opinion, Small Animal Cardiology

Wednesday 9 September 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speaker: Sam Barton BVetMed(Hons) PGC (Cardio) MRCVS

This course aims to provide small animal, first opinion clinicians with a logical approach to the most commonly encountered cardiac presentations. This will include three lectures, a workshop on ECG interpretation and clinical scenarios for delegates to implement the information from the day.

Topics covered:

- Acquired canine murmurs – approach to mitral valve disease and dilated cardiomyopathy
- Arrhythmia workshop
- Approach to feline heart disease
- Management of congestive heart failure clinical case scenarios

Learning objectives:

- Be able to provide a diagnostic and treatment plan for dogs presenting with acquired murmurs
- Feel confident in identifying the need to perform an ECG and interpreting findings
- Be able to advise owners on the significance of a feline murmur and produce an appropriate diagnostic/treatment plan
- Be able to identify and manage acute and chronic congestive heart failure in dogs and cats

This course is suitable for small animal clinicians who wish to increase their confidence with common cardiac presentations. The course is not aimed at cardiac certificate holders.



A Logical Approach to First Opinion Emergencies and Managing Shock

Wednesday 16 September 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speaker: Thomas Hackney BVSc PGCert CertAVP MRCVS

This course is designed to equip small animal, first-opinion clinicians with a structured approach to commonly encountered emergency and critical care presentations. The programme includes lectures and workshops on triage, stabilisation and clinical scenarios that allow delegates to apply the day's learning in real-world contexts.

Point of care ultrasound (POCUS) will be discussed, but a follow on day (17th September) is available, covering the practical use of this investigative modality.

Topics covered:

- Effective communication during stressful situations
- Systematic approach to triage and identification of shock
- Management of common emergencies including dyspnoea, collapse and trauma

Learning objectives:

- Be effective at team management during periods of heightened stress
- Be able to effectively, and rapidly, triage the emergency patient
- Be able to identify and stabilise common causes of dyspnoea, collapse and trauma
- Be able to manage the bleeding patient effectively.

This course is aimed at first opinion clinicians but is suitable for anyone with an interest in improving their triage and emergency management skillset.



Hocus Pocus – the Magic Point of Care Ultrasound in Emergencies

Thursday 17 September 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £750

Speaker: Thomas Hackney BVSc PGCert CertAVP MRCVS

This course offers an interactive exploration of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS), focusing on the use of both abdominal and thoracic assessments, including sonography for trauma and lung ultrasound. Emphasis will be placed on applying POCUS across a wide range of emergency presentations—not just trauma—to support thorough, rapid evaluation of the cardiorespiratory system. Delegates will then have the opportunity to practise these skills on live animals and develop a systematic approach that enables efficient assessment of future cases.

Topics covered:

- Application of POCUS in the emergency patient using a standardised approach
- Utility of POCUS in monitoring or carrying out procedures in critical patients
- The practical application of POCUS

Learning objectives:

- Understand the utility of POCUS in veterinary primary care
- Be aware of the advanced POCUS techniques
- Be able to perform and interpret abdominal and thoracic POCUS exams

This course is suitable for delegates of any skill level with regards to ultrasonography that have a desire to begin using POCUS in their patients. Delegates who regularly see emergency patients are likely to benefit, particularly those not already engaging with POCUS.



Neurology in the Wild: No MRI, No CSF, No Problem!

Wednesday 14 October 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speaker: Mark Lowrie MA VetMB MVM
DipECVN MRCVS

Neurology can feel intimidating for general practitioners. The perception that every case requires costly imaging, complex tests, or a lengthy neurological exam often makes general practitioners hesitant to tackle neurological cases. In reality, careful observation—sometimes using video footage—can give you more actionable information than hours of hands-on testing.

This full-day lecture-based CPD is designed to help you navigate the “wild world” of neurology with practical, accessible strategies. Using a very video-heavy format, you will see real cases, practical tips, and examples that you would not find in textbooks or online courses. We will show you how to interpret gait, posture, and subtle movement changes to guide localisation and management—without relying on MRI, CSF analysis, or the often long-winded and difficult-to-interpret traditional neurological examination.

Topics covered:

- Video-based analysis of gait, posture, and movement patterns in dogs and cats
- Practical strategies for distinguishing neurological from orthopaedic cases
- Stepwise approach to localisation and differential diagnoses without advanced diagnostics
- Case discussions across seizures, tremors, vestibular disease, and spinal conditions
- Real-world, cost-conscious management strategies for neurological patients

- Tips for communicating complex cases to owners in a clear, confident way

Learning objectives:

- Recognise key aspects of gait and movement that guide neurological localisation, using video footage rather than relying solely on hands-on examination
- Conduct a “hands-off” neurological assessment, understanding that observation often provides more insight than long-winded traditional exams
- Distinguish neurological from orthopaedic disease in cases where signs may mimic each other
- Analyse seizure and tremor cases, and interpret movement abnormalities to inform diagnosis and management
- Identify red flags that suggest referral or advanced diagnostics, and know when pragmatic management is appropriate
- Apply practical, cost-conscious decision-making using minimal equipment and owner-supplied resources (like smartphones and home video)
- Gain confidence in assessing and managing neurological cases in general practice, empowering you to be a better neurologist without expensive tools

This day is tailored for general practice vets, giving you the tools and confidence to manage a wide range of neurological presentations using a hands-off, observation-driven approach. Expect engaging case discussions, clear explanations, and practical strategies you can apply the very next day.



Local Anaesthesia for General Practitioners

Tuesday 27 October 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speakers: Kate White MA VetMB PhD
DipECVAA FRCVS

Flo Hillen B.SocSci BVetMedSci BVMBVS
PGCHE FHEA MRCVS

Freddie Corletto DVM PhD CertVA
DipECVAA FRCVS

This practical course will focus on local anaesthetic techniques for cats and dogs that can be readily used in general practice. It will provide an overview of local anaesthetic agents and perineural anaesthesia, including peripheral nerve blocks commonly used in dental surgery. The course will also introduce epidural and spinal anaesthesia, as well as fascial plane blocks. Delegates will have the opportunity to practise techniques such as blind approaches to peripheral nerve blocks, epidural and spinal anaesthesia, and an ultrasound-guided fascial plane (transversus abdominis) block.

Topics covered:

- Pharmacology of local anaesthetic agents
- Principles of perineural, fascial plane blocks, and epidural/ spinal anaesthesia
- Perineural blocks, including for dental surgery, using a blind technique
- Epidural and spinal anaesthesia
- Introduction to ultrasound guided techniques
- Management of local anaesthetic toxicity
- Constant rate infusions for partial intravenous anaesthesia (PIVA)

Learning objectives:

- Understand the properties of available local anaesthetic agents
- Understand the benefits and risks of peripheral nerve blocks, fascial plane blocks and epidural/spinal anaesthesia
- Select local anaesthetic agents at appropriate volumes/doses for common surgical procedures
- Perform local anaesthetic blocks (including for dental surgery) using a blind technique
- Perform epidural and spinal anaesthesia
- Perform a transversus abdominis plane (TAP) block with ultrasound guidance
- Know how to manage cases of local anaesthetic toxicity
- Choose anaesthetic agents for partial intravenous anaesthesia, calculate dose rates and prepare/administer the infusion

This course is designed for veterinary surgeons with all levels of experience including those wanting to incorporate local anaesthesia into their practice and those wanting to refine or learn different techniques. The course would also be of value to those veterinary surgeons undertaking further professional qualifications in small animal surgery or anaesthesia.





Introduction to Small Animal Ultrasound

**Wednesday 29 April 2026 or
Wednesday 1 July 2026 or
Wednesday 30 September 2026**

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speakers: Gary England BVetMed
PhD DVetMed CertVA DipRep DipACT
DipECAR FRCVS

Richard Ewers BVSc BSc CertVR DipMS
FHEA MRCVS

This highly interactive and practical one-day course will focus on how to get the most out of ultrasound machines, and how to image the major abdominal organs. Presentations on each body system will consider imaging techniques, normal findings and a brief overview of common pathological changes. These are followed by practical scanning sessions supported by experienced tutors. Delegates will have the chance to use a range of ultrasound machines and get plenty of opportunity to practise their technique on live dogs.

Topics covered:

- Setting up an ultrasound machine to optimise the image in a range of situations
- Obtaining diagnostic images of the major abdominal organs (liver, spleen, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, kidneys, bladder)

Learning objectives:

- The basic principles of ultrasonography and how to apply these to patient preparation and ultrasound machine use
- Manipulation of ultrasound machine settings to optimise image quality during abdominal ultrasound examinations and echocardiography
- Standard imaging views of the major abdominal organs, including landmarks and normal appearance

This course is designed for veterinary surgeons who are new to or have undergone limited training in ultrasonography. It will provide invaluable experience for those who are intending to or are beginning to use this technique, and those wanting to gain further experience and refine their technique. The course would also be of value to those veterinary surgeons undertaking further professional qualifications in small animal medicine or veterinary diagnostic imaging.

25%
discount for
booking before
31 March
2026

Intermediate Small Animal Abdominal Ultrasound

**Wednesday 11 March 2026 or
Wednesday 21 October 2026**

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £1,095

Speaker: Richard Ewers BVSc BSc CertVR
DipMS FHEA MRCVS

This highly interactive and practical course will focus on how to get the most out of an abdominal ultrasound examination (including small abdominal structures). Presentations on each body system will consider imaging techniques, normal findings and common pathological changes. These are followed by practical scanning sessions supported by experienced tutors. Delegates will have the chance to use a range of ultrasound machines and get plenty of opportunity to practise their technique on a live dogs.

Topics covered:

- Review of ultrasound machine settings to optimise image
- Obtaining diagnostic images of abdominal structures (liver, spleen, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, kidneys, bladder, pancreas, adrenals, lymph nodes)
- Appreciating the appearance of common pathological changes in abdominal structures with ultrasonography
- Principles of ultrasound guided sampling (including practise with simulators)

Learning objectives:

- The basic principles of ultrasonography and how to apply these to optimise image quality (patient preparation, ultrasound machine settings and scanning technique)
- Standard imaging views of abdominal structures, including landmarks and normal appearance
- How pathological processes affect ultrasonographic appearance and recognise common changes in appearance
- Advantages and limitations of ultrasound guided sampling and appropriate technique
- Performing a systematic whole abdominal ultrasound examination

This course is designed for veterinary surgeons who have completed some basic ultrasonography training (for example, the Introduction to Small Animal Ultrasound course). It will provide invaluable experience for those wishing to gain further experience and refine their technique in scanning the major abdominal organs and increase their confidence with smaller structures. The course would also be of value to those veterinary surgeons undertaking further professional qualifications in small animal medicine or veterinary diagnostic imaging.



Practical Small Animal Echocardiography – an Introduction

**Wednesday 22 April 2026 or
Thursday 10 September 2026**

CPD hours: 5

Fee: £750

Speaker: Sam Barton BVetMed(Hons) PGC
(Cardio) MRCVS

This practical one-day course will focus on the generation and interpretation of basic cardiac ultrasound images in the dog. The course will provide an overview of the equipment and facilities needed and cover the techniques used in the generation and interpretation of right parasternal long and short axis echocardiographic images. The delegates will enjoy the opportunity to carry out echocardiography in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science's clinical skills laboratory with a significant proportion of the time dedicated to "hands-on" echo.

Topics covered:

- Facilities and equipment required for basic echocardiography in small animal practice
- Generation of right parasternal long and short axis views of the canine heart
- Interpretation of right parasternal long and short axis views of the canine heart
- Echocardiography in context – case examples of patients with cardiac disease and the role of echocardiography in diagnosis and management

Learning objectives:

- The basic principles of echocardiography, the physics behind image generation and the applied anatomy of the heart
- How to select the most appropriate equipment for small animal echocardiography
- How to consistently generate right parasternal long and short axis views of the canine heart
- Interpretation of right parasternal long and short axis views of the canine heart
- The role of echocardiography in small animal practice





Equine

Standing Surgery For The Equine Practitioner – Simple Surgeries That You Can Do

Tuesday 3 November 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £695

Speakers: David Rutherford BVMBVS
CertES(Orth) DipECVS PGCHÉ SFHEA MRCVS

Richard Stephenson BVMS CertVR
CertEP MRCVS

Are you tired of having to refer cases for procedures that are actually quite straightforward? In this practical and interactive one-day course, equine practitioners will learn, under the guidance of experienced experts, the indications, techniques, aftercare, and potential complications of a variety of commonly performed surgical procedures that can be easily carried out on a standing, sedated horse.

The course includes three hours of lectures and four hours of hands-on practical tuition, covering nine different procedures, followed by practise on cadaver specimens. Expand your surgical skills beyond wound repair and castration, advance your career in equine practice, and maintain control over your cases.

Topics covered:

The indications, technique, after care and possible complication of:

1. Third eyelid removal
2. Enucleation
3. Suturing a simple eyelid laceration
4. Wiring a simple incisor fracture
5. Sinus trephine and endoscopy
6. Nasofrontal sinus flap
7. Removal of a fractured distal splint bone
8. Deep digital flexor tenotomy,
9. Medial patella desmotomy (theory only not practical)

Learning objectives:

Be able to safely and accurately perform the nine procedures listed above.

This course is for equine or mixed practitioners with an interest in surgical disease in the horse. You should already be confident repairing wounds and performing castrations so that you are now looking to further develop your surgical skills.

25%
discount for
booking before
31 March
2026

Avoiding the Pitfalls – Taking the Stress Out Of Performing the Equine Pre-Purchase Examination

Wednesday 4 November 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £695

Speakers: David Rutherford BVMBVS
CertES(Orth) DipECVS PGCHE SFHEA MRCVS

Richard Stephenson BVMS CertVR
CertEP MRCVS

This problem-based, interactive course is designed to boost delegates' confidence in decision-making during the Equine Pre-Purchase Examination (PPE). Using real case material, delegates will be challenged to provide sound advice to potential purchasers. How concerned should we be about that sarcoid? Is the cardiac murmur significant? Can the horse see properly? Is it lame? Will the horse be suitable for the client, and how should we report our findings?

Topics covered:

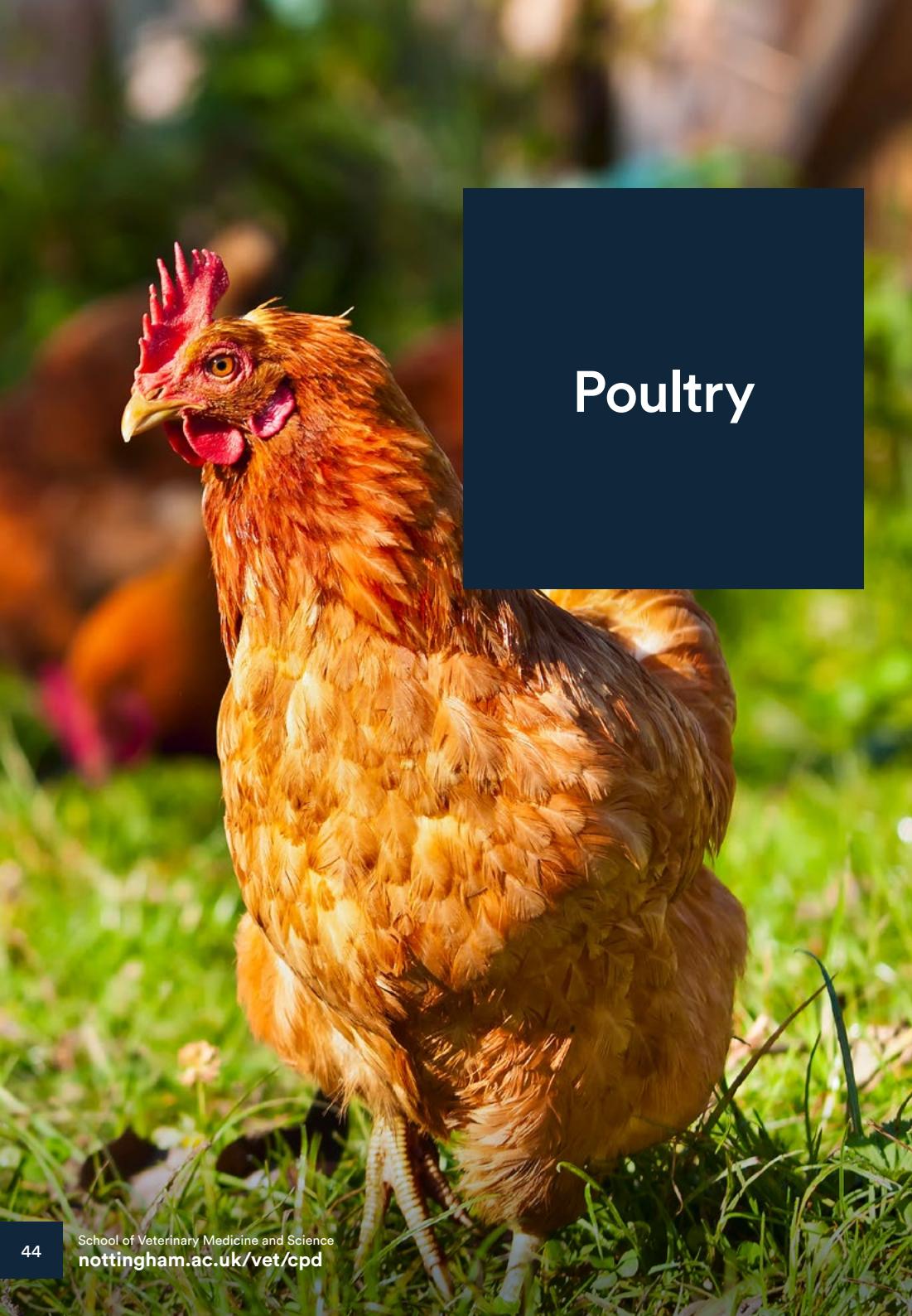
- Understanding your client's needs – arranging the PPE and avoiding conflicts of interest; the ethics of the PPE
- How to perform a thorough PPE
- Common problems encountered – skin, heart, eyes, and limbs
- Additional procedures, including endoscopy and radiography
- Writing a clear and professional PPE report

Learning objectives:

- Be able to conduct a full 5-stage pre-purchase examination
- Understand how to manage potential conflicts of interest
- To give sound advice on the commoner skin, cardiac, ophthalmic and orthopaedic conditions regularly encountered during a pre-purchase examination
- To be able to write an accurate and helpful report which also help protect against allegations of negligence

This course is equally suitable for younger equine practitioners who wish to start performing prepurchase examinations and for more experienced colleagues who wish to reinforce their skills.





Backyard Poultry Medicine for General Practitioners

Thursday 5 November 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £495

Speakers: Mike Clark MA VetMB MBA PGCHE FHEA FRCVS

Luis Pardo Ramilo PgC(EAS) MRCVS

The course will provide essential skills required for first opinion working with backyard poultry species. From physical exam and interpreting clinical pathology investigations, to biosecurity measures and flock management. By implementing these competencies, you will be able to manage poultry cases with more confidence.

Topics covered:

- Individual poultry clinical skills
- Poultry practical skills
- Flock management skills
- Flock health
- Post-mortem examination

Learning objectives:

- Strengthen core clinical skills adapted for poultry animals
- Develop practical and surgical skills specific for poultry species
- Be able to assess the individual patient within the broader context of flock health
- Acquire skills for a good post-mortem examination

This course is aimed at first-opinion veterinary surgeons who see poultry cases in practice and want to feel more confident when facing those cases. Still, everyone with an interest in their core skills with backyard poultry patients is welcome.

25%
discount for
booking before
31 March
2026



Farm

Sheep Liver Biopsies as part of the Mineral Audit

Thursday 18 June 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £395

Speakers: Joseph Angell BVSc MSc DipLSHTM PhD MRCVS

Andrea Clarkson PhD Vet Sci & Med BSc(Hons) An Sci PGCE PGDip MA Ed

Nigel Kendall BSc(Hons) PhD

This course uses the mineral audit process to equip delegates with the tools needed to carry out on-farm mineral investigations. It will cover what can be assessed directly on the farm through observation, farmer communication, and record analysis, as well as potential on-farm sample collection—what can be determined while standing in the field—and how to collect and use samples to assess mineral status.

Determining mineral status is part of a continuous cycle, with insights building from accumulated sample data (for example, liver biopsies) and evaluating the response to supplementation strategies

Topics covered:

- The mineral audit
- What to look for in the field
- How can the lab help
- How to perform a liver biopsy in sheep
- The supplementation cycle

Learning objectives:

- Understand the principles of the mineral audit process
- Demonstrate a sheep liver biopsy
- Understand the role of the laboratory and use of appropriate samples
- Understand what can be done in a field to determine nutritional status
- Outline supplementation strategies and the supplementation cycle

This course will be designed for farm vets who wish to improve their diagnostic abilities for investigating nutritional problems.

25%
discount for
booking before
31 March
2026

Stepping Stones CPD – Your Next Step Towards Clinical Success

We are excited to offer our innovative CPD programme 'Stepping Stones'. Aimed to develop new graduates to the next step in their career, or as a refresher after a career break or even changing disciplines. The CPD days will combine a mixture of lectures, small group teaching and practical elements, developed and delivered by our friendly in-house CPD team of experienced practitioners, CertAVP holders, as well as recognised specialists. The days are designed to be highly applicable to first opinion practice, focussing on common presentations, with tips and tricks to help you evolve as a competent and confident general practitioner. We hope to deliver a series of fun, interactive and relevant CPD like you've never experienced before.



Meet the Stepping Stones Team

**Lucy Hughes MA Vet GPCert (Ophthal)
CertAVP MRCVS**

**Alyson Quieros BVSc CertAVP
(Veterinary Dermatology) MRCVS**

**Stephanie Richardson MA BVetMed
CertAVP MRCVS**

**Rob White BSc BVetMed CertVA DSAS
(Soft Tissue) DipECVS SFHEA FRCVS**

**Sam Barton BVetMed(Hons) PGC
(Cardio) MRCVS**

Lumps, Bumps and Holes – How to Improve your Soft Tissue Surgical Skills

Tuesday 12 May 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £350

Join us for a one-day lecture-based day defined to boost your confidence around the management of cutaneous and subcutaneous "lumps and bumps" and wounds in general practice. The course will include open discussions to help you refine your techniques and make your management of these cases smoother, safer, and more rewarding.

Topics covered:

- Surgical approach to lumps in general practice
 - Learn how to plan, execute, and close lump removals with precision — from initial assessment to histopathology submission
- Practical oncological skin tension-relieving techniques
 - Master simple, effective techniques to manage challenging closures following tumour excisions, including local flaps and tension-relieving sutures
- Wound management in general practice
 - Refresh your understanding of wound assessment, debridement, dressings (both simple and advanced), and closure options

Everyday Dermatology

Monday 18 May 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £350

If dermatology cases leave you scratching your head, then this day is for you! The course will aim to improve your dermatology history-taking and clinical examination, focussing on a logical approach to problem skin cases, as well as providing tips to improve your practical microscopy skills.

Topics covered:

- Improving your dermatology history-taking
- Making the most of cytology in practice
- A case-based approach to common skin problems



To Cut or Not to Cut – That is the Question! Decision Making in GI Cases

Tuesday 14 July 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £350

Rarely does a day go by without seeing a vomiting dog or an animal with diarrhoea. This course aims to develop your decision making abilities and build your confidence in assessing these cases.

Topics covered:

- Initial approach to vomiting and diarrhoea
- Is it medical or surgical?
- Are your bloods helpful?
- Introduction to intestinal surgical techniques
- Video for exploratory laparotomy
- End-to-end anastomoses practical



Let There Be Light! Ophthalmology for Beginners

Tuesday 6 October 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £350

If the thought of an eye consult fills you with fear, this day is for you! This highly interactive day will help to build your confidence and develop a logical, problem-solving approach to common ophthalmic presentations. The course will include top tips to improve your ophthalmic examination, dealing with ophthalmic emergencies and a case-based approach to corneal ulcers and other common ophthalmic presentations.

Topics covered:

- Improving your ophthalmic examination technique
- Management of ophthalmic emergencies
- Case-based approach to corneal ulcers and other common ophthalmic presentations



It's Coughing Cats and Dogs!

Thursday 15 October 2026

CPD hours: 8

Fee: £350

This course covers a logical approach to cardio-respiratory cases in practice. A case-based approach to common cardio-respiratory presentations in first opinion small animal practice.

Topics covered:

- History and physical exam – how this can aid the decision making
- Diagnostic tests – what does my patient need – echo, radiographs, BAL or all of the above?
- Therapeutics – what will actually help?
- Case-based approach to the coughing patient



2026 CPD calendar

Day	Course name	Speakers	Days	CPD hours	Fee
Wed 11 Mar	Core Surgical Skills 1	Rob White	1 day	8	£350
Wed 11 Mar	Intermediate Small Animal Abdominal Ultrasound	Richard Ewers	1 day	8	£1,095
Tue 24 and Wed 25 Mar	Spinal Surgery from Decompression to Stabilisation	Sebastien Behr	2 days	16	£2,495
Wed 15 Apr	Core Surgical Skills 1	Rob White	1 day	8	£350
Tue 21 Apr	Surgical Management of Urethral Obstruction in the Cat	Rob White	1 day	8	£1,095
Wed 22 Apr	Practical Small Animal Echocardiography - an Introduction	Sam Barton	1 day	5	£750
Wed 29 Apr	Introduction to Small Animal Ultrasound	Gary England, Richard Ewers	1 day	8	£1,095
Tue 12 May	Stepping Stones: Lumps, Bumps and Holes... How to Improve your Soft Tissue Surgical Skills	Rob White	1 day	8	£350
Wed 13 May	Coughing, Sneezing, and Snorting	Kate Murphy	1 day	8	£495
Mon 18 May	Stepping Stones: Everyday Dermatology	Alyson Quieros	1 day	8	£350
Wed 17 Jun	Otitis: A Modern Framework for Treatment	Steve Shaw, Alyson Quieros	1 day	8	£495
Thur 18 Jun	Sheep Liver Biopsies as part of the Mineral Audit	Joseph Angell, Nigel Kendall, Andrea Jones	1 day	8	£395
Tue 23 and Wed 24 Jun	Introduction to Practical Endoscopy	Mark Dunning, Rob White	2 days	16	£1,950
Wed 1 Jul	Introduction to Small Animal Ultrasound	Gary England, Richard Ewers	1 day	8	£1,095
Tue 14 Jul	Stepping Stones: To Cut or Not to Cut - That is the Question. Decision Making in GI Cases	Rob White, Steph Richardson	1 day	8	£350
Wed 15 Jul	10 Top Tips for Medicine	Mark Dunning	1 day	8	£495
Wed 22 Jul	Core Surgical Skills 2	Rob White	1 day	8	£350
Wed 5 Aug	Everyday Ophthalmic Surgery	Lorraine Fleming	1 day	8	£1,095
Tue 18 Aug	Surgical Management of Laryngeal Paralysis	Rob White	1 day	8	£1,095
Tue 8 Sep	Intermediate Gastrointestinal Tract Surgery	Rob White	1 day	8	£1,095
Wed 9 Sep	A Logical Approach To First Opinion, Small Animal Cardiology	Sam Barton	1 day	8	£495
Thur 10 Sep	Practical Small Animal Echocardiography - an Introduction	Sam Barton	1 day	5	£750
Mon 14 Sep	Doing More With Less - Day 1 - Successful and Cost-Effective Internal Medicine for the GP	Mark Dunning	1 day	8	£495

Day	Course name	Speakers	Days	CPD hours	Fee
Tue 15 and Wed 16 Sep	A Practical Introduction to Small Animal Thoracic Surgery	Will Robinson, Rob White	2 days	16	£2,495
Wed 16 Sep	A Logical Approach to First Opinion Emergencies and Managing Shock	Thomas Hackney	1 day	8	£495
Thur 17 Sep	Hocus Pocus - the Magic Point of Care Ultrasound in Emergencies (POCUS)	Thomas Hackney	1 day	8	£750
Fri 18 Sep	Feline Orthopaedics – The Pelvis and Hindlimb	Gareth Arthurs	1 day	8	£1,095
Tue 29 Sep	Intermediate Urinary Tract Surgery	Rob White	1 day	8	£1,095
Wed 30 Sep	Introduction to Small Animal Ultrasound	Gary England	1 day	8	£1,095
Fri 2 Oct	Core Orthopaedics	Gareth Arthurs	1 day	8	£395
Tue 6 Oct	Stepping Stones: Let There Be Light! - Ophthalmology for Beginners	Lucy Hughes	1 day	8	£350
Wed 7 Oct	Core Surgical Skills 2	Rob White	1 day	8	£350
Tue 13 Oct	Surgical Management of Urethral Obstruction in the Cat	Rob White	1 day	8	£1,095
Wed 14 Oct	Neurology in the Wild: No MRI, No CSF, No Problem!	Mark Lowrie	1 day	8	£495
Thur 15 Oct	Stepping Stones: It's Coughing Cats and Dogs!	Sam Barton, Steph Richardson	1 day	8	£350
Thur 15 and Fri 16 Oct	Masterclass in Tibial Plateau Levelling Osteotomy (TPLO)	Gareth Arthurs	2 days	16	£2,495
Tue 20 and Wed 21 Oct	Introduction to Practical Endoscopy	Mark Dunning, Rob White	2 days	16	£1,950
Wed 21 Oct	Intermediate Small Animal Abdominal Ultrasound	Richard Ewers	1 day	8	£1,095
Tue 27 Oct	Local Anaesthesia for General Practitioners	Kate White, Flo Hillen, Freddie Corletto	1 day	8	£495
Tue 3 Nov	Standing Surgery for the Equine Practitioner: Simple surgeries that you can do	David Rutherford, Richard Stephenson	1 day	8	£695
Tue 3 and Wed 4 Nov	Emergency Surgery for the General Practitioner	Jon Hall	2 days	16	£1,950
Wed 4 Nov	Avoiding the Pitfalls - Taking the Stress out of the Equine PPE	David Rutherford, Richard Stephenson	1 day	8	£695
Thur 5 and Fri 6 Nov	Oncological Surgical Principles and Reconstruction	Jon Hall	2 days	16	£1,950
Thur 5 Nov	Backyard Poultry Medicine for General Practitioners	Mike Clark, Luis Pardo Ramillo	1 day	8	£495
Tue 10 Nov	Electrosurgery for the General Practitioner	Rob White	1 day	8	£495
Tue 17 Nov	Doing More With Less - Day 2 - Successful and Cost-Effective Internal Medicine for the GP	Mark Dunning	1 day	8	£495
Tue 24 Nov	A Practical Approach to Perineal Hernias	Jackie Demetriou	1 day	8	£1,095
Wed 25 Nov	A Practical Approach to Salivary Mucoceles	Jackie Demetriou	1 day	8	£1,095
Fri 27 Nov	Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)	Jon Hall	1 day	8	£1,095



Our location

School of Veterinary Medicine and Science
University of Nottingham
Sutton Bonington Campus
Loughborough
LE12 5RD

Cancellations

Cancellations made up to 30 days prior to the course will incur a 15% administration fee. Refunds for cancellations made within 30 days of the course will be at the discretion of the University of Nottingham.

Ruth Readyhoof
CPD Education Centre Manager

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Important information

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is fair and accurate at the time of going to press. However, the courses and services covered by this brochure are subject to occasional changes, and no guarantee can be given that these will not be made following publication.