EQUINE ORTHOPAEDICS

Course Organiser: F Henson
Lecturers: F Henson and K Smith
Term: Lent

Aims:

To produce a graduate able to identify and treat the common conditions that cause lameness in the horse and to be able to apply orthopaedic principles to new situations using a problem solving approach.

Primary Objectives:

• To recognise the common conditions causing equine lameness.
• To be able to perform analysis of clinical, pathological and diagnostic imaging information required to identify musculoskeletal abnormalities.
• To be able to perform the synthesis of information required to construct a list of differential diagnoses, and to plan treatment protocols.
• To be able to treat common conditions causing equine lameness
• To develop the application of principles to new situations using a problem solving approach.

Secondary Objectives:

• To be able to recall clinical anatomy and surgical/biomechanical principles.
• To comprehend the relationship of anatomical, pathological and biomechanical principles to the musculoskeletal system.

At the end of this course students should be familiar with the diagnosis and treatment of the more common equine orthopaedic conditions.

Lecture List:

1. Introduction to lameness
   Approach to diagnosis and treatment of lameness.

2 & 3. The foot
   The hoof, the distal phalanx (P3), navicular syndrome.

4. Developmental orthopaedic disorders
   Osteochondrosis, physisitis, angular limb deformities, flexural deformities,
congenital hyperextension

5. Osteoarthritis
Pathogenesis, clinical features and treatment of osteoarthritis

6. Stress fractures
Pathogenesis, clinical features and treatment of stress fractures

7. Tendons and ligaments
Pathogenesis, clinical features and treatment of common soft tissue injuries

8. The equine pelvis and back
The pelvis. Diagnosis and treatment of equine back disorders

6. Gait abnormalities

11. Synovial sepsis
Recognition of sepsis. Diagnosis. Treatment

12. Fractures

Practical Component:

As part of the 5th year clinical rotations there is an equine lameness examination small group practical. Preparatory reading of the provided handouts is essential, as is a working knowledge of functional anatomy. The session comprises of an audio-visual presentation on forelimb & hindlimb lameness, clinical examination & palpation of a lame horse.

The 6th year rotations consist of a 2 x 2 week block in groups of 4-8 students. For each rotation students work within the Referral Hospital for 2 weeks and in the Ambulatory Practice for 2 weeks covering all aspects of medicine, orthopaedic and surgery.

Handouts: All lectures and practicals are supported by handouts. Specific references are given in the handout for each lecture.

Further reading:

There are a number of books covering equine orthopaedic, comprehensive texts include the following;

Ross and Dyson (2011) Diagnosis and management of lameness 2nd edition