

INTRODUCTION TO VETERINARY MEDICINE (VCM 102)

2nd semester 100 level

OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING VETERINARY DOCTORS

Production of veterinarian that will engage confidently in economic livestock production and animal health protection.

To achieve this Goals College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agriculture Abeokuta divided curriculum into 3 major areas

Pre-clinical phase

Para-clinical phase

Clinical Phase

Pre clinical area this deal mainly with healthy animals and it involves studies on the structure and functions of normal healthy animal body.

Para clinical area this deal mainly with infectious diseases affecting animal body (Veterinary Microbiology/ Veterinary Parasitology), transformation from healthy body to disease state (Pathogenesis/ Physiopathology) and gross and microscopic appearance of disease organ and tissues (Pathology) and the drugs used for prevention and treatment of disease (Pharmacology)

Clinical area this deals with prevention and cure (Veterinary Medicine / Surgery and Public Health), breeding of animals and management of reproductive diseases (Reproduction / theriogenology)

PRE CLINICAL SUBJECTS

1. Veterinary Anatomy:

a) Embryology: b) Surface or Topographic anatomy: c) Gross or macroscopic anatomy d)

Histology or Microanatomy e) Applied or clinical anatomy:

2) **Veterinary Biochemistry** (chemistry of living matter/ physiological chemistry).

3) **Veterinary Physiology**.

4) **Animal Management**.

Animal management practices including feeding housing as it influences productivity and health of livestock. It very essential for veterinarian to have good knowledge in the principles of animal management and these include:

PARA CLINICAL SUBJECTS

1) **Veterinary Microbiology**: Deals mainly with life cycles, growth, isolation of microbes from animals or contaminated objects (feed, water and environment).

2) **Veterinary Parasitology**: Study of pathogenic parasites including Helminthes there morphology, appearance, life cycles, pathogenicity, control and economic importance.

Protozoology: Protozoa in the blood, Gastro intestinal tract and reproductive tract.

Entomology: Arthropods insects of veterinary importance where we have the winged and wingless

3) **Veterinary Pathology or Morbid Anatomy**: This study the appearance of body during disease process or after death, in an attempt to determine the cause or nature of disease or death.

Branches of Veterinary Pathology

Gross Pathology,

Histopathology:

Clinical Pathology: (applicable to living animals).

Haematology: Study of blood

Enzymes Levels: e.g AST, ALT indicate tissue damage

4) Pharmacology: This is the study of the principles of drug action, drug and their use in veterinary practice.

CLINICAL PHASE

Veterinary Medicine: This involves study of disease condition through healing

Clinical diagnosis which includes:

- History taking, examination of environ (poison, Starvation, overfeeding).
- Examination of subject (clinical examination of animal)

Branches of Veterinary Medicine include:

- Food Animal Medicine (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs).
- Poultry Medicine.
- Companion Animal Medicine (dogs, cats, horses).
- Wildlife and Fisheries Medicine
- Laboratory Animal Medicine (Rabbits, Rat, Mice, guinea pig)

2) Veterinary Surgery: This involves treatment of disease involving use of hands or instruments.

- Preparation for surgery (Asepsis and Anaesthesia)
- Operative techniques
- Post operative care

Veterinary Surgery is usually divided into 2

Soft tissue surgery and Orthopaedics Surgery

In the Veterinary curriculum also under surgery is Diagnostic imaging

3. Veterinary Public Health involves:

- Studies on disease transmitted between animals and man (Zoonosis)
- Ante-mortem and post mortem inspections of food animals , contamination of meat, milk, fish with microorganism and chemical residues (Antibiotics/ pesticides)
- Organization and regulation of Veterinary practice.

Theriogenology (Reproduction) this deals mainly with the following:

- Examination of animals for breeding soundness
- Disease of the reproductive tract
- Causes of infertility in animals
- Artificial insemination (collection, preservation and insemination).
- In-vitro fertilization, oestrus synchronization.

Other in Veterinary curriculum

Field Study: After every session students are go for a mandatory 6 weeks industrial training either in farm/diagnostic laboratory/ Veterinary clinic

Project: Carried out in 600 level where experiments or survey is carried out by student under the supervision of Lecturer in area of animal diseases viz a viz factors that may influence intensity of disease process.

POSTGRADUATE VETERINARY TRAINING

The undergraduate veterinary curriculum is aimed at providing instruction in the basic principles of art and science of veterinary practice. It has however been observed that such training does not empower a young veterinary graduate to provide high quality service which are often desirable especially where in dept knowledge of particular health problems are required. This situation has led to the need for specialization or “restricted effort” within the broad area of veterinary science, since it is not possible to produce someone who is “all things to all animals” in other words “ a complete veterinarian”

There are 2 types of veterinary specialist

TYPES OF VETERINARY SPECIALIST

There are 2 types of veterinary specialist

- Academic specialist
- Professional specialist

Academic specialist

A doctor of veterinary medicine graduate may obtain a higher academic qualification such as post graduate diploma, masters degree or doctorate degree in any of the branches of veterinary sciences such as Pathology, Surgery and Public health. Such postgraduate qualifications are awarded by university and are usually utilized for teaching and research.

Professional specialist

Unlike the academic postgraduate degree, professional PG diploma, membership and fellowships are awarded by boards set up by the professional association /bodies. The fellowship are granted to members who have attained certain degree of skill or proficiency in a branch of veterinary medicine practice which are directly involve in clinical or diagnostic functions e.g Pathology, Microbiology, Surgery and Public health. Professional specialists are primarily trained for thorough diagnosis, prevention or treatment of diseases. The qualification obtained include

ACCREDITATION OF VETERINARY SCHOOLS

There are 2 bodies responsible for the accreditation of veterinary programmes in Nigeria; these are the:

- 1) National Universities Commission (NUC), and
- 2) Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN).

Accreditation by NUC

- 1) To ensure that no university fall below acceptable standards, and
- 2) that the degree offered by the universities have international currency .

ACCREDITATION BY VCN

The Veterinary Surgeon decree no 37 of 1969 established the VCN and charged it, among other function, with the responsibility of determining what standard of knowledge and skill are to be attained by person seeking to be registered as Veterinay Surgeon in Nigeria. This responsibility is executed through:

Granting approval to courses, qualification and institution, Monitoring of teaching and examination in approved veterinary schools, and Withdrawal of approval previously given where necessary.