

LIVE Teaching Development Fund 2009

An update on the development and evaluation of a veterinary dental teaching and assessment model

July 2010

The development and evaluation of the veterinary dental teaching and assessment model is progressing well and we are on schedule as per the anticipated time scale. Soon after receiving confirmation of the award, the necessary equipment and materials were purchased and production of the static, visual teaching materials began.

Clinical skills sheets have now been formulated for the following skills:

- Manual descale of teeth using hand held instrumentation
- How to set up a dental machine
- Ultrasonic descale of teeth using an ultrasonic scaler
- Polishing teeth using a dental machine

In addition, the following information sheets have been devised:

- Identification of hand held dental instrumentation
- Tooth structure
- Dental formulas
- Anatomic and triadan numbering systems
- Positional terminology
- Occlusion
- Malocclusion and bite classification
- Dental charting
- Stages of periodontal disease

Post production, all learning materials were subject to specialist external review and the necessary modifications were made based on the comments received. Trial sessions using the prototype basic dental model (constructed using mosaic porcelain tiles, silicone seal and grout) and learning materials took place with small groups of third year BVetMed students in April and May. A basic evaluation sheet was developed and used to evaluate student opinion on the usefulness of the station. The information captured in the questionnaire has since been collated and analysed, the preliminary results of which, view the dental model in a positive light with students awarding high marks for content and quality of the station, value of the learning experience and quality of tutor facilitation.

The production of short video clips detailing machine set up, correct use, care and safety considerations for patients and staff has been scheduled for early August with the plan to have them accessible to students via Blackboard by the start of the new academic year. The development of further online teaching materials, which could be accessed remotely as well as onsite, has been discussed with an external expert. Updating the current dentistry CAL programme has already begun, again with the aim of having this available to students by the start of the next academic year (2010-2011).

Over the next year, development of assessment materials for both the VN and BVetMed courses will take place. These will be presented in a variety of formative and summative formats, to test knowledge and understanding as well as basic practical dental skills. The second phase of project development will also involve trialling the dental machine with further groups of BVetMed and Veterinary Nursing students. This will provide a good opportunity to increase student accessibility and participation in the station in addition to promotion of student assisted learning and undergraduate interprofessional collaboration. A more advanced questionnaire will be formulated and distributed to students, with recommendations being made for further development of the station.