Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD010064	**Version:** 4 **Date Amended:** 04/Aug/2026

1. Module Title
Developing Clinical Practice

2a. Module Leader
Debbie Emmerson

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	**Module Code**	**Module Name**	**Condition**
Pre-requisite:	MOD010010	Professional Practice and Legislation	Compulsory
Pre-requisite:	MOD010009	Applied Behaviour and Training	Compulsory
Pre-requisite:	MOD010066	Clinical Animal Behaviour	Compulsory
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Building on the knowledge gained in the Clinical Animal Behaviour module, this module prepares you to apply that understanding and develop the skills needed to become a clinical animal behaviourist. You'll observe and analyse both live and recorded clinical cases and begin to take a more active role in the consultation process, the development and implementation of treatment programmes, conducting follow-up sessions and communicating directly with clients and allied professional. Throughout the module, you'll reflect on your performance using evidence to support your methods and identify areas for improvements that can be implemented in future cases. This reflective practice aligns with current industry standards and will help prepare you for future registration with professional bodies.

Alongside practical learning, you'll strengthen a wide range of academic and professional skills. These include gathering and interpreting data, presenting findings, effective communication with both professional and non-specialist audiences, accurate referencing and progress tracking with long-term client management. You'll also gain confidence using digital tools and software relevant to the allied-veterinary sector. Personal development is embedded through activities that enhance time management, self-evaluation, adapting to different client needs, and creating actionable plans for both you and your clients.

6b. Outline Content

COUNSELLING SKILLS

CONSULTATION TECHNIQUES - questioning techniques; rapport building; evaluation of behaviour, body language and interactions of both owner and animal; evaluation of evidence.

DIAGNOSIS – causes of problem behaviour, predisposing/initiating/maintaining factors, range of problems and symptoms, differential diagnoses, critical thinking and analysis.

TREATMENT SYNTHESIS – development of evidenced based treatment programs incorporating evaluation of treatment options, critical thinking, adherence to legislation, management of health and safety, owner goals and capabilities, animal welfare.

COMMUNICATION – communication methods (verbal, written and kinaesthetic), report writing and progress tracking for the client and report writing for the veterinary professional or for academic/professional career progression.

6c. Key Texts/Literature
The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources
None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evaluate consultation techniques and treatment methods from observations of a range of cases.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop professional skills in consultation techniques, diagnosis of behaviour problems and the formulation and communication of treatment programs to clients and other professionals.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Self-reflect on performance and plan refinements to develop future professional practice that take into account the welfare of client, patient, public and counsellor.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	15	1-3	Lectures
Other teacher managed learning	21	1-3	Observation of behaviour consults, workshops, assisting in client follow up activities, trips
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Self-Directed Learning
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Students to conduct short consultations on peers or clients with critical self reflection. (1000 Words) One case study to be written up providing critical insight in regards to analysing history, diagnosing behaviour problems and implementing treatment regimes (3000 Words)

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]