Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD011015	**Version:** 1 **Date Amended:** 07/Mar/2025

1. Module Title
Applied Techniques in Animal Massage, Rehabilitation and Hydrotherapy

2a. Module Leader
Jessica Rogers

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
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	**Module Code**	**Module Name**	**Condition**
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BSc Equine Therapy, rehabilitation and performance, BSc Animal Therapy, rehabilitation and performance, BSc Canine Therapy rehabilitation and performance. MVetphys Veterinary Physiotherapy, Canine and Equine.		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module builds on the knowledge and practical skills you've gained in previous modules and enables you to develop a deeper practical understanding of the scientific and technical issues surrounding therapeutic intervention for the horse. Through a mix of lectures and practical hands-on sessions, you'll develop the theoretical knowledge and practical application skills to be both effective and competent when applying therapeutic interventions within scope of practice for the equine therapist.

You'll develop and refine your evaluation skills in relation to assessment of the horse, which will enable you to identify the limitations of the musculoskeletal system of an individual and understand compensatory mechanisms seen in the body with regards to posture and movement. You'll develop case histories and maintain record keeping evidencing a clear and succinct approach to the overall assessment of the equine patient.

You'll be assessed on your assessment process, anatomical knowledge and justification of treatment modalities, where you'll be required to demonstrate the skills required to apply therapeutic reasoning and correct application of rehabilitation modalities to improve the outcome for the horse whether in a rehabilitation or wellness programme. You'll further develop your understanding of common pathologies and musculoskeletal dysfunctions seen in the horse and learn how to tailor individual treatments to address or improve these issues.

You will continue to strengthen your written and verbal communication skills and be encouraged to develop a team approach as you'll need to be able to interact with potential clients, veterinary surgeons, trainers, farriers and other specialist therapists. By the end of the module, you'll learn to enhance your verbal and written communication skills, critical evaluation, integration of scientific literature to practical situations.

6b. Outline Content

Assessment of the Equine:

Gait Evaluation: Detailed analysis of the horse's gait, identifying abnormalities and compensatory patterns during movement.

Muscular Restrictions: Identifying and assessing muscular imbalances or restrictions in the equine body that may affect performance or cause discomfort.

Joint Assessment: Evaluating joint mobility, stability, and any signs of inflammation or dysfunction in the horse's musculoskeletal system.

Posture, Body Balance, and Conformation: Assessing the horse's posture and conformation, including alignment and balance, to understand how structural or postural imbalances may impact movement and performance.

Safety and Professionalism:

Body Mechanics for the Therapist: Practicing proper body mechanics to ensure the therapist's safety and avoid injury while conducting manual interventions on horses.

Vocabulary and Terminology: Demonstrating accurate and clear use of equine-specific terminology related to anatomy, movements, and treatment techniques.

Working as Part of a Multi-Disciplinary Team: Demonstrating the ability to collaborate with veterinarians, farriers, trainers, and other professionals to deliver therapeutic interventions for horses.

Communication: Effectively communicating and interacting with equine owners, professional colleagues, and relevant authorities, maintaining professionalism and clarity in discussions regarding treatment plans.

Anatomy:

Comprehensive Knowledge of the Equine Musculoskeletal System: Understanding the anatomy of the horse, including the bones, joints, muscles, and ligaments, with the ability to identify, locate, and palpate relevant anatomical structures accurately in the equine species.

Manual Therapies:

Massage Techniques: Applying massage techniques specific to the equine species, including effleurage, petrissage, tapotement, trigger point therapy, direct pressure, cross-fibre friction, and myofascial release.

Passive Range of Motion and Stretching Exercises: Implementing passive range of motion (PROM) exercises and stretching regimes tailored to the horse’s needs, enhancing flexibility and promoting recovery.

Therapeutic Reasoning: Contextualizing the different mechanisms of action between various manual therapy techniques, selecting the most appropriate interventions based on the horse's clinical history and assessment results. Demonstrating effective reasoning for their inclusion in treatment plans,and showcasing practical and theoretical competency in their application.

Remedial Exercise:

Equine Remedial Exercises: Introducing remedial exercises for horses, focusing on the theory and the application of rehabilitation exercise integration and its benefits rehabilitation

Hydrotherapy and First Aid Integration: Incorporating knowledge of equine hydrotherapy and first aid to enhance rehabilitation programs, with a focus on pathology and disease-specific interventions

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources
Access to Equine rehab yard/ hydrotherapy facilities on each species.

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	Demonstrate the ability to conduct comprehensive assessments.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply a high level of practical competency in implementing safe and effective manual therapeutic interventions.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Design an effective plan that integrates appropriate manual therapeutic techniques while appraising the therapeutic benefits of remedial /conditioning exercises and hydrotherapy practices for the equine patient.
4	Knowledge and Understanding	Appraising the therapeutic benefits of remedial /conditioning exercises and hydrotherapy practices for the equine patient.
5	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate an understanding of the equine musculoskeletal anatomy with an emphasis on its application in therapeutic interventions.

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	24	1-5	Lectures- Using a range of learning activities including student presentations, lectures and workshops.
Other teacher managed learning	48	1-5	Practical sessions and workshop.
Student managed learning	228	1-5	Directed and self-directed learning activities.
TOTAL:	300		

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	1,3,4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Coursework: Case review . 2000 words					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
011	Examination	2,5	0 (%)	Pass/Fail	100 (%)
Examination: Practical exam to assess manual and anatomy competency . 20min					

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]