

Module code: MOD011377	Version: 1 Date Amended: 07/Mar/2025
-------------------------------	--

1. Module Title
Principles and Applications of Manual Interventions

2a. Module Leader
Aidan McAteer

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

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
5

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 explores the fundamental principles and practical applications of manual interventions in animal physiotherapy. You'll build on the assessment skills learned in Principles and Application of Manual Intervention, by integrating and evaluating the essential stages of assessing animals for physiotherapy sessions, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the initial evaluation process and developing the foundations of appropriate interventions.

Key topics covered in this module include:

Anatomy and Dynamic Assessment:

Identifying key anatomical landmarks in equine and canines to guide the assessment process. Understanding the movement patterns of different breeds and how this impacts musculoskeletal health. Using objective and subjective methods of evaluation to enhance assessment techniques

Physical Examination:

Observe the animal's posture, gait, and overall appearance to identify any abnormalities or asymmetries. Using hands-on techniques to feel for the 4 T's; Temperature, Texture, Tenderness and Tone. Assessing the flexibility, extensibility and movement of joints to identify any restrictions or pain points. Using objective and subjective methods of evaluation to enhance assessment techniques

Musculoskeletal Issues:

Learning about frequent musculoskeletal problems in Animals. Utilising tools like goniometers for measuring joint angles and understanding when to refer to a veterinarian for further diagnostics. Using objective and subjective methods of evaluation to enhance assessment techniques

Functional Assessment:

Assessing the animal's performance in walking, trotting or specific tasks to identify functional limitations. Observing the animal's behaviour during the assessment to understand pain levels/discomfort. Using objective and subjective methods of evaluation to enhance assessment techniques

Introduction to manual techniques:

Integration and application of range of motion assessment, massage and stretching

Documentation and Reporting:

Maintaining detailed records of the assessment findings, including diagrams, software and notes. Effectively communicate the assessment results to owners, veterinarians, and other animal care professionals, working within scope of practice. Developing appropriate terminology used to a variety of audiences.

These techniques ensure a thorough and systematic approach to assessing animals for physical condition, forming the foundation for effective physiotherapy interventions. You'll work independently and as part of group work to enhance communication and professional consideration for others viewpoints, while developing autonomy in decision making skills.

By the end of this module, you'll be equipped with the knowledge, time management and skills to effectively assess and apply manual interventions in physiotherapy sessions for animals, enhancing their overall well-being, performance, while ensuring safe and ethical practice.

6b. Outline Content

The course is structured into three distinct topics spread across the year, aiming to introduce the foundational principles students will utilise in their future careers as Therapists, enhancing inter-disciplinary skills.

1. Evaluation and analysis of Assessment findings.

This topic delves into the step-by-step fundamentals of statically and dynamically assessing animals. It covers what to look for during palpation, range of motion evaluations, and pain scale assessments. Each step includes discussions on the subjective and objective aspects of the task, ensuring students gain a comprehensive understanding necessary for success. Palpation skills will be developed further to develop feel and assessment of muscle groups. Once these skills are mastered, evaluation of the case and analysis of the findings are developed to formulate an overall picture of the patient.

2. Introduction to Manual Interventions

This topic explores and introduces the principles of various manual interventions, including cellular and global mechanisms of effect, available to future therapists, contextualising their application. Central to this topic is the discussion around these interventions, emphasising that there is no single correct answer. This approach is crucial for students to develop a nuanced understanding. Through practical sessions, manual techniques will be introduced, and students will start to develop early manual skills, to include massage, stretching and PROM techniques commonly applied during physiotherapy sessions. Mastering these skills and justifying inclusion will not occur until level 6.

3. Additional Therapies

This final topic introduces other manual interventions available to therapists or as part of a multidisciplinary team approach. It aims to raise awareness of the different options and their potential patient benefits. Here students will explore complex ethical scenarios and how the effect of paraprofessionals can aid in improving overall animal welfare.

Each of these topics will be further expanded through a series of smaller subject lectures, providing the necessary depth and breadth of content.

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 canine and equine practical teaching facilities for practical sessions.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Discuss the fundamentals of and evaluate a proficient assessment technique
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Appraise a range of manual interventions, discussing their mechanisms of action within the correct context.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate proficiency in applying and utilising assessment techniques effectively
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evaluate the integration of complementary therapies into case management.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Acquire proficiency in the application and execution of manual intervention technique

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	48	1-5	2hr lectures 1x weekly
Other teacher managed learning	24	1,2,3&5	1hr practical's per species every other week
Student managed learning	228	1-5	Self directed learning
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	2&4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Magazine article to the Veterinary sector 1500 word

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Examination	1,3,5	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Practical directional exam on manual techniques 20 mins

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]