10015NAT Graduate Diploma
Veterinary Acupuncture

Nationally accredited under the Australian Qualifications Framework at postgraduate level.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The 10015NAT Graduate Diploma Veterinary Acupuncture is designed to increase the potential for employability for practitioners and enhance treatment options offered by practitioners.

Successful completion of this course will enable you to integrate a new therapy into practice. You will be able to offer this service to clients and increase treatment options for patients. The course:

- Provides practitioners with an accredited postgraduate level award based on assessment of their competence; and
- Provides employees and clients with evidence of a high level of competence and
- Provides participants with a potential bridge to higher postgraduate qualifications as well as skills and knowledge to practice veterinary Chinese acupuncture competently.

The College of Integrative Veterinary Therapies is a Registered Training Organisation (National provider 91769). We offer nationally accredited training under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQTF). Nationally recognized training provides a standard against which courses and colleges can be assessed and assures the student that the course is of an appropriate standard and that government guidelines are met. As RTO accreditation is an ongoing activity you can be assured that the high standards of the CIVT are maintained. This training is available across Australia and internationally.

The Graduate Diploma of Veterinary Acupuncture is orientated towards applied theory, both traditional and scientific which you can apply to your work almost immediately. You will be able to develop your confidence and competence over time with continuous case support, guidance and feedback from tutors with both simulated cases, and active case forum and then your own clinical cases. You will be able to start using acupuncture within the first term.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As this course provides education and training in practical and theoretical skills relevant to the provision and integration of Chinese herbal medicine into veterinary clinical practice, for entry into the Graduate Diploma of Veterinary Acupuncture, candidates must hold either:

- an undergraduate veterinary science bachelor degree, DVM or equivalent OR
- a relevant bachelor degree or postgraduate qualifications (Graduate Certificate/Diploma or Master) together with significant relevant vocational practice OR
- a postgraduate qualification in veterinary science (Master or Doctorate)
- exceptions may be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the College depending on previous qualifications and experience.

Learners should also have sound skills in English written and oral communication, literacy and numeracy.

MODULES AND COMPETENCIES

The Graduate Diploma of Veterinary Acupuncture consists of basic and advanced instruction in veterinary acupuncture as the teaching components; the development of a reflective case log book of personal experience of the skills practiced, demonstrated professional ability and competence (observation, live at a workshop, video, testimonials from practice, clients, supervisors) and preparing material and evidence for assessment of competencies.

(Note: IVAS Acupuncture Certification is recognised as a significant proportion of the Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Acupuncture requirements and Recognition of Prior Learning is available if you are certified in Veterinary Acupuncture by IVAS - evidence will be required)

All 8 Units of Competency are core units and are required before full qualification is granted. Students send their portfolio of evidence to CIVT for assessment. Two expert teachers and assessors of CIVT assess each submission.

Units of Competency

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<th>UNIT (in delivery sequence)</th>
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<td>VETTCM801A - Work within a traditional Chinese medicine framework</td>
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<td>VETACU801A - Apply the veterinary acupuncture diagnostic framework</td>
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<td>VETACU802A - Work within veterinary acupuncture principles and practices</td>
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VETACU803A - Plan and provide the veterinary acupuncture treatment strategy
VETACU804A - Perform the veterinary acupuncture assessment
VETACU805A - Provide specialised veterinary acupuncture treatment
VETINT801A - Prepare veterinary case studies for publication
VETINT802A - Reflect upon integrated veterinary medicine practice

COURSE DELIVERY

As post graduate students studying at an academic level, candidates are expected to undertake a significant amount of independent study in their own time and be able to practice skills in the workplace. The whole course is undertaken over 24 months and the theory component is delivered online. The teaching component consists of online lectures, readings, self-directed study and activities with continuous support from experienced tutors and teachers. Your workplace is where you get to apply your knowledge and skills and manage your cases.

PROGRAM DURATION
Part-time: 18-24 months.

ASSESSMENT AND AWARD

Participants are required to demonstrate evidence of competencies through assessment processes which comprise activities and exercises based on actual and simulated cases in practice.

International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) Course curriculum can be mapped into the required competencies which means veterinarians who have completed IVAS Certification are eligible to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning for the first 5 Units of Competency; you may require additional submission of a portfolio of evidence demonstrating currency of skills and knowledge.

If you have studied Veterinary Chinese Herbal Medicine (e.g. IVAS Certificate in Veterinary Chinese Herbal Medicine or CIVT Veterinary Chinese Herbal Medicine courses) and can provide evidence of competency, and if you have studied advanced acupuncture techniques and can provide evidence of competency, you can elect to undergo the process of Recognition of Prior Learning so that you do not have to repeat any studies you have already undertaken.

Those who are assessed as meeting the requirements of any single Unit of Competency, will be provided with a Statement of Attainment.

Those who are assessed as completing the requirements of all aspects of the course and providing evidence of Competency for assessment will receive the Award 10015 Graduate Diploma Veterinary Acupuncture.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process where a student may be granted credit or partial credit towards a qualification in recognition of skills and knowledge gained through work experience,
life experience and/or formal learning. Recognition of Prior Learning is offered to those who have pre-existing skills in Veterinary Acupuncture, Certification in Veterinary Acupuncture or training and skills in Veterinary Chinese Herbal Medicine. These candidates need to complete an initial survey of experience and knowledge to determine if the RPL pathway is appropriate. Then they enrol in RPL for the course and begin the process of submission of evidence. This is a rigorous process. Any gaps in the mapping of skills and knowledge may need to be compensated for by completing individual Units of Competency or elements of a Competency. A portfolio of evidence towards RPL is submitted. This process can take 1 to 6 months to complete.

COURSE FEES 2013-2014

Option 1 Course paid in full up front $6989.00 OR

Option 2 Deposit $1995.00 plus $333.00 per month (Total cost $7989)

Gap Skills- if you need to complete a Unit or Module for RPL then a fee will apply.

Recognition of Prior Learning - Enrollment and Process of Assessment $1950. You may be required to complete a Gap Skills Unit or Module, this is discussed on a case by case basis, (the Unit or Module may be covered by the RPL fee in most cases).

Provision of appropriate computer equipment and software, as well as any other costs associated with access to teaching and demonstrations or assessment submission shall be the responsibility of the student.

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CURRICULUM 10015NAT Graduate Diploma Veterinary Acupuncture

Module 1 VETTCM801A Work within a Traditional Chinese Medicine Framework (75 hours)

This is an introductory unit of competency covering the principles of traditional Chinese medicine designed for application in an animal care context.

Successful completion of this unit of competency equips practitioners working with animals to:
- develop knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine principles
- identify the theories of traditional Chinese medicine practice
- develop knowledge of the cause of disease from a traditional Chinese medicine perspective
- develop a basic knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine anatomy

This module covers:

Health and Harmony according to Chinese Medicine
- Introduction to Philosophies of Chinese Medicine & Concept of Dao/Unity
- Differences between Chinese Medicine and Western Medicine
- Introduction to the History of Veterinary Acupuncture
- Overview of Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Introduction to the Science of Acupuncture
- Concept of Yin and Yang - qualities and interrelationships
- Concept of 5 Elements/ Wu Xing/ Phases - qualities, correspondences and inter-relationships
- Concept of cyclical rhythms in Chinese Medicine (Chinese clock, seasonal and diurnal changes)
- Concepts of Qi, Blood, (Xue), Body fluids Jin Ye qualities, types, production, functions, circulation, inter-relationships

Chinese Medicine Anatomy
- Characteristics and Functions of the Zang Fu
- Characteristics and Functions of the Meridians/ Channels/ Jing Luo

Causes of Disharmony

Workshop- Getting Started with Acupuncture 1

Module 2 VETACU801A Apply the Veterinary Acupuncture Diagnostic Framework (60 hours)

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to interpret information gathered in the acupuncture health assessment, utilising principles of Chinese medicine, and to make accurate diagnoses over the course of treatment, according to the veterinary acupuncture diagnostic framework.

Successful completion of this unit equips practitioners to:
- identify the basic principles of acupuncture and apply them to veterinary practice
- diagnose clinical conditions seen in veterinary practice from an acupuncture perspective
- identify the central philosophies of acupuncture and Chinese medicine and apply them to veterinary practice
- develop knowledge of Chinese medical pathology
- apply the principles of Chinese medical pathology and pathophysiology within an acupuncture diagnostic framework in veterinary practice
- conduct a veterinary Chinese medicine assessment utilising physical examination, tongue diagnosis and pulse diagnosis techniques

This module covers:

The Diagnostic Framework

- Central Philosophies of Veterinary Acupuncture
- Chinese Medicine Physiology
- Chinese Medicine Pathology
- Pathophysiology - Patterns of Disharmony according to Chinese Medicine
- Methods of Diagnosis
- Methods of Examination
- Taking the Case

Workshop - Getting Started with Veterinary Acupuncture 2

**Module 3 VETACU802A Work within Veterinary Acupuncture Principles and Practices** (120 hours)

This unit of competency covers the knowledge of veterinary acupuncture principles and the skills required to support the application of veterinary acupuncture principles and practices.

Successful completion of this unit equips practitioners to:
- apply the central philosophies of acupuncture to veterinary practice
- integrate principles of acupuncture into mainstream veterinary practice
- develop in-depth knowledge of veterinary acupuncture techniques and applications in current veterinary practice

This module covers:

Neurophysiology of Acupuncture

Meridians and Key Acupuncture points

- Names, classifications, actions and indications of points

Principles of Treatment

- Designing a Point Prescription
- Empirically Useful Points
- Special Acupuncture Points
- Needling Techniques
- Moxibustion
- Other ways of stimulating Points
- Interpreting Responses to Acupuncture
Module 4 VETACU803A Plan and Provide the Veterinary Acupuncture Treatment Strategy (150 hours)

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to administer the veterinary acupuncture treatment according to the philosophy and practices of a Chinese medicine therapeutic framework.

Successful completion of this unit equips practitioners to:
- select and apply the acupuncture treatment strategy for a range of conditions seen in veterinary practice
- identify and apply Chinese medical pathophysiology principles in veterinary practice
- determine appropriate therapeutic principles of treatment according to assessment of the patient
- provide veterinary acupuncture treatment appropriate to the patient’s condition and its causes, and supported on the basis of established veterinary acupuncture practice

This module covers:

Developing strategies
- Small Animal Veterinary Acupuncture AND OR* Equine Veterinary Acupuncture (*student elects)
- Strategies for the Pain and Paralysis
- Strategies for Neurological & Ophthalmologic Conditions
- Strategies for the Gastrointestinal System
- Strategies for the Hepatic System
- Strategies for Endocrine and Reproductive Disorders
- Strategies for Dermatological and Ear Conditions
- Strategies for the Urological System
- Strategies for the Cardiovascular System
- Strategies for the Respiratory System
- Strategies for the Hematologic, Infectious & Immune System Disorders
- Strategies for Neoplastic Conditions
- Strategies for Behaviour
- Strategies for Common Feline Conditions
- Strategies for Common Avian and Exotic Species

Module 5 VETACU804A Perform the Veterinary Acupuncture Assessment (150 hours)

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to observe the condition of the patient and gather information relevant to the case, according to the veterinary acupuncture framework.

Successful completion of this unit equips practitioners to:
- conduct a comprehensive assessment of animals in their care based on the principles of Chinese medicine and veterinary acupuncture
- use Chinese medicine and acupuncture assessment techniques to gather information
- use Chinese medicine principles to diagnose a broad range of conditions, both simple and
complex, seen in veterinary practice
- review and re-evaluate the acupuncture treatment plan at follow up

This module covers:

- Case Logs
- Integrative Approach to Veterinary Acupuncture
- Conduct the Clinical Exam
- Identifying the Chinese Medicine Signs
- Using Chinese Medicine Diagnosis Techniques
- Analyse and differentiate disease patterns

Module 6 VETACU805A Provide Specialised Veterinary Acupuncture Treatment (45 hours)

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to provide specialised veterinary acupuncture and Chinese medicine care for more complex conditions/diseases. This unit requires high level knowledge of veterinary acupuncture principles and their application for a wide range of health conditions.

Successful completion of this unit equips practitioners to:
- conduct specialised assessment of animals in their care based on the principles of acupuncture and Chinese medicine
- provide specialised acupuncture treatment to animals in their care
- develop knowledge of specialised Chinese medicine principles including Chinese dietary therapy principles, Chinese herbal medicine principles

This Module covers:

- Veterinary Chinese Dietetics - Food therapy
- Chinese Herbal Medicine for Acupuncture
- Classic Chinese Medicine for Acupuncture
- Advanced Acupuncture Point Stimulation

Module 7 VETIN801A Prepare Veterinary Case Studies for Publication (20 hours)

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to source and evaluate relevant information, apply findings to integrated veterinary practice and prepare veterinary case studies for publication.

Successful completion of this unit equips practitioners to:
- access, evaluate and apply literature findings on the theory and practice of traditional, alternative and scientific medicine to integrated veterinary practice
- prepare case studies of a quality suitable for publication in peer reviewed journal
- critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative research
- effectively present and communicate integrated veterinary medicine to clients and colleagues

This Module covers:

- Evidenced Based Veterinary Medicine
- Research and Communicating Chinese Medicine
- Case Reports
Module 8 VETINT802A Reflect Upon Integrated Veterinary Medicine Practice (15 hours)

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required of the practitioner to demonstrate critical thinking, analysis and reflective practice in integrated veterinary practice.

Successful completion of this unit equips practitioners to:
- implement and promote reflective learning practices into integrated veterinary practice
- use critical thinking and analysis effectively in integrated veterinary practice
- contribute to the development of professional practices specific to integrated veterinary practice

This Module covers:

- Critical thinking and Analysis
- Applying reflective practice
- Professional Practice