

British Cattle Veterinary Association

Day One Skills

Essential Requirements of a Farm Animal Practitioner:

1. Be able to handle and restrain or to direct adequate restraint of the animal to be examined safely and effectively and understand the responsibility for other persons in attendance. This includes:
 - the ability to cast and roll a cow,
 - restrain a foot for examination and treatment
 - restrain a cow for stomach tubing.

2. Be able to perform a thorough clinical examination with appropriate history taking. This is to include:
 - thoracic and abdominal auscultation
 - rectal and reproductive tract examination.

3. Assess the nutritional status of an animal and be able to body condition score and advise appropriately on feeding and husbandry procedures.

4. Be able to assess an obstetrical problem for example a calving or prolapse and perform a thorough examination. Be able to know personal limitations and when to request assistance.

5. Appreciate and advise on animal welfare improvements in conjunction with management, economics and the welfare ethics. Also appreciate the law and codes of recommendations with regards to welfare and welfare ethics.

6. Understand and demonstrate adequate bio-security and be able to advise on bio-security procedures.

7. Be able to advise and administer appropriate treatment for disease in both individuals and groups of animals, with an appreciation of economic and practical challenges.
8. Be able to advise on preventative medicine.
9. Following assessment, be able to safely perform:
 - sedation
 - general anaesthesia
 - analgesia of the bovine animal
10. Be competent in the performance of local anaesthesia including ring blocks and epidurals. Be able to administer for the procedures of:
 - castration
 - disbudding/dehorning
 - uterine replacement
 - caesarean section
 - abdominal surgery
 - teat surgery
11. Be able to sterilise equipment and apply the principles of aseptic surgical techniques in order to carry out basic surgical procedures.
12. Be able to humanely euthanase an animal whilst ensuring personal safety and safety of assistants. Also advise on carcass disposal.
13. Be able to perform a basic post mortem with sample collection and transportation and be able to interpret and advise on results.
14. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of public health and food production and advise on procedures following the discovery of a notifiable disease and zoonotic diseases.

15. Be able to administer treatment to an animal via all routes of administration.

This includes:

- intravenous injection
- uterine irrigation
- stomach intubation
- intramammary infusion

16. Be able to rectally examine an animal and pregnancy diagnose manually from 60 days. Be able to find the cervix and manually palpate ovaries and ovarian structures. Appreciate the importance of practice and to have the confidence to know personal limitations and to recheck at a later date if required.

17. Be able to routinely trim a foot and identify obvious lesions. Also be familiar with types of foot blocks available and be able to apply a preferred type of foot block adequately.

18. Be familiar with Animal Health requirements and procedures for investigations, i.e abortion.

19. Be familiar with certification for emergency slaughter on farm and legislation regarding transport of casualty animals.

Desirable Day One Skills for a Farm Practitioner:

1. Be able to perform local anaesthesia in the form of paravertebral nerve blocks and Intravenous Regional Anaesthesia for the performance of abdominal surgery and digital amputation respectively.
2. Have a knowledge and understanding of animal production data and performance indicators and be able to advise on improving welfare and economic performance.
3. Be able to rectally examine an animal and consistently pregnancy diagnose manually from 60 days and with ultrasound from 40 days.