

# Cruciate

## Fundamentals of Aseptic Surgery Course

### Introduction

This course provides researchers and animal technicians with the knowledge and skills to perform surgery in an aseptic (sterile) manner. The course does not focus on a specific procedure, but teaches the fundamentals of aseptic technique. This gives the participant the tools to undertake a basic surgical procedure, such as osmotic pump insertion, in an aseptic fashion. This is a requirement of the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* for all recovery surgery.

The course is divided into two sections. There is an initial online component followed by an all-day workshop. To progress to the workshop, you are required to achieve 100% in the online assessment. The online component should take about 3 hours to complete.

The all-day workshop is divided into two 3 hour sessions with a lunch break. The workshop takes place in a suitable training area within your facility. In the morning, fundamental surgical techniques will be demonstrated and practised using simulation. In the afternoon, you will perform a simple cadaver surgery such as osmotic pump implantation under close supervision and instruction. This will allow you to practise aseptic technique and develop an aseptic workflow.

To receive a Certificate of Completion, participants will need to pass the online quiz and demonstrate the ability to perform basic surgery in the workshop sessions. The workshops are limited to a maximum of four participants to ensure individualised attention.

### Course content

This course consists of an initial online component, which provides the background knowledge to allow understanding of the principles of aseptic surgical technique. The online course is provided via an online Moodle site with 24/7 access. It includes photos, videos and an illustrated course manual and concludes with a quiz that requires a 100% grade to progress to the workshops.

The workshops are orientated towards the development of practical skills and cover:

- Preparation for sterile surgery (animal, equipment and surgeon) including the use of waterless surgical scrub and sterile gloving technique.
- Creation and maintenance of a sterile surgical field.
- Performance of basic surgical techniques (incising, suturing, ligation, application of skin clips and tissue glue).
- Implementation of a surgical workflow that incorporates sterile technique.

### Materials and equipment

Materials and equipment that will be provided include: suture practice pad, surgical scrub, scrubbing brush, Avagard (3M) waterless scrub, scalpel handle and blade, surgical scissors,

thumb forceps, needle holders, haemostats, suture material, sterile drape (transparent plastic and Press n Seal), sterile surgical gloves size 6, 7 and 8, skin clips, tissue glue, hair clippers.

Materials and equipment you will need to provide include: Personal Protective Equipment (gown, hairnet, facemask), sharps container, F10, paper towel, procedure pad, sterile surgical gloves sizes not listed above (if required), hot bead sterilizer (if available). You will need to provide a suitable, well-lit training area for the two workshops.

The afternoon workshop will utilise mouse cadavers (two per participant), which will need to be provided. These cadavers can either be defrosted carcasses designated for training purposes or freshly culled training animals (preferable if available). Ethics approval, if required for the use of carcasses, must be obtained from your Animal Ethics Committee prior to the workshops.

### Your Educator

I am a veterinarian based in Melbourne and a qualified veterinary educator. I have taught anaesthesia and surgery to researchers, animal technicians and veterinary students at Sydney, Melbourne, RMIT and La Trobe Universities. I have been a member of the Austin Health and RMIT University Animal Ethics Committees and currently work part-time at La Trobe University with a focus on training, compliance and veterinary care. Recognising the lack of formalised training opportunities for researchers and animal technicians in Melbourne, I have developed courses in both isoflurane anaesthesia and aseptic surgery. These courses adopt a pragmatic approach with a focus on the practical application of these techniques in a research environment.

### Pricing

In order to provide individualized instruction, the workshops are limited to a maximum of 4 participants and require a minimum of 2 participants. The cost for the complete Fundamentals of Aseptic Surgery Course including the introductory online component, resource manual and two workshops is:

2 participants: \$2000

3 participants: \$2700

4 participants: \$3200

### Enquiries or to book

If you have any queries or wish to discuss this course further, please don't hesitate to contact myself, Dr John Inns, by phone on: 0402 638 809 or email: [john@cruciate.com.au](mailto:john@cruciate.com.au). Some of the course content can be tailored to suit your specific needs. Current workshop dates are listed on [cruciate.com.au](http://cruciate.com.au) under [Availability](#), but if these do not suit your requirements, please call me to arrange an alternative time.