Clinical toxicology is a rapidly changing field, as new toxins and treatments are introduced and longstanding practices are challenged. New toxic agents have different clinical toxidromes (patterns of presenting signs) to traditional agents, which need to be distinguished for correct diagnosis and management decisions to be made. Clinicians are likely to see patients poisoned with these new toxic agents in the near future.

Presented by three outstanding tutors, this module will bring you up-to-date with key developments in clinical toxicology to help you confidently diagnose and manage clinical cases and improve patient outcomes.

Who should do this course
This module will be of interest to veterinarians working in companion animal, mixed and rural practice in New Zealand and Australia, as well as clinical and anatomical pathologists, veterinary nurses and technologists.

Aims
• To help you and your practice develop a consistent, coordinated and cogent approach for managing poisoned patients.
• To update your knowledge and understanding of both recently approved and commonly encountered toxic agents, including how to identify them, and diagnose and most effectively treat affected animals.
• To thoroughly understand the principles and new techniques of decontamination and enhanced elimination, and when to apply them, or not, to optimise patient outcomes.

Benefits of participating
For you: Increase your confidence and clinical skills in managing poisoned patients, using the latest techniques and gain an understanding of old and new toxic agents.
For your practice: Improve patient outcomes and client satisfaction by developing a consistent and coordinated approach for managing poisoned patients in your practice. Improve effective decision-making and ensure benefits of treatment outweigh risks.

Dates: 17 October – 27 November

Topic 1: Sacred cows of decontamination—time to put them on the truck. Presented by Rosalind Dalefield
Review the evidence base, indications and contra-indications for techniques of decontamination and enhanced elimination of poisons, including new decontamination techniques to help you effectively initiate emergency treatment.

Topic 2: Insights into old and new vertebrate toxic agents (VTA’s). Presented by Rhian Cope
An update on the general features, mode of action, pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnosis (including clinical, anatomical and forensic approaches), treatment and prognosis of commonly encountered and new VTA’s. The agents covered include: PAPP, sodium nitrite, alpha-chloralose, sodium cyanide, potassium cyanide, cholecaciferol, yellow phosphorus, DRC 1339 (chloro-p-toluidine), sodium fluoroacetate (1080), MZP (Microencapsulated zinc phosphate), and the anticoagulants (warfarin, coumatetralyl, bromadiolone, brodifacoum, diphacinone, pindone, flocoumafen).

You’ll look at ways and means of identifying the toxic agent behind cases of animal poisoning, using clinical signs, pathology, diagnostic and analytical testing to ferret out the specific toxic agent involved. This can be important for identifying the toxic source, aid in treatment and prognosis, and for human health or forensic purposes (in cases of malicious poisonings).

Register online at www.vetspace.org.nz/2011toxic