Clinical Reasoning

To be aware that there is a framework to assist with the logical approach to a case.

What is Clinical Reasoning?
- Thinking and decision making processes associated with clinical practice.
- Majority of diagnostic errors are made in reasoning - available data synthesised incorrectly.

Qualities of a Good Clinician
- Knowledgeable
- Good decision maker

Logical Framework for Approaching a Case
- Signalment
  - Age, Sex, Breed
  - Helps establish diagnosis
  - Influences treatment/prognosis
- Presenting complaint
- History
  - Systematic questioning
  - Relevant management, Background, Medical History, Current Condition
  - Summarise
  - (BIOP = Been In Owners Possession)
- Clinical Examination
  - Head to tail
  - Specific - based on history and basic examination
  - Consider your findings and their relevance
- Problem List
  - Anything identified in history and clinical examination
  - Physiologically or anatomically abnormal that requires health care management
  - Accurately define and articulate each problem
  - Prioritise
    - Specific signs which have clearly defined diagnostic pathway
      - E.g. Vomiting, PUPD, Seizures, Jaundice, Diarrhoea, etc
    - Non-Specific signs which may be associated with a range of disease processes
      - E.g. Inappetance, Depression, Lethargy
      - Important from a management perspective
- Formulate a Plan
  - Generate a list of differential diagnoses
  - Formulate a diagnostic plan
  - Treatment plan before definitive diagnoses for short term management
- Differential diagnoses
  - May stop at anatomical/functional level or continued to aetiological/histopathological level