

**VE 127**  
**VMA Clinics Practice I**  
**3 Credits**

Instructor: Kim Eremko  
780 853 8626

Original Developer: Dr. Robyn Rodgers

Current Developer: Kim Eremko

Reviewer: Elaine Suddaby

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2602 - 59 Avenue, Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada T9V 3N7. Ph: 780 871 5700  
5707 College Drive, Vermilion, Alberta, Canada T9X 1K5. Ph: 780 853 8400  
Toll-free in Canada: 1 800 661 6490



## **VE 127 Version: 9**



### **VMA Clinics Practice I**

#### **Calendar Description**

This lecture/lab course covers breeds, colors, normal behavior patterns and restraint techniques of small animals, pocket pets, and exotics. Students learn how to maintain a wide variety of medical records in a veterinary setting and perform kennel care duties on cats and dogs. All of the skills learned in the lecture are practiced throughout the labs.

#### **Rationale**

This is a required course for Veterinary Medical Assistant students. The course exposes students to basic handling and restraint of small animals, rabbits, exotics and pocket pets. Students study the different breeds, behavior development and body language of small animals, which influences the way that they handle them. The course covers the theory and allows hands on experience for the student to build their skills. Record keeping and animal care is a key component to this course.

#### **Prerequisites**

None

#### **Co-Requisites**

None

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. demonstrate safe, low stress restraint techniques in the dog and cat.
2. demonstrate various restraint positions for dogs and cats.
3. demonstrate the proper use of restraint devices when handling.
4. visually identify various breeds and color patterns of dogs and cats.
5. identify and explain the proper restraint and handling techniques of pocket pets, rabbits, birds and ferrets.
6. outline the stages of development in the dog and cat
7. explain and recognize normal behavioral patterns in the dog and cat.

8. recognize body language in dogs and cats and how it relates to handler safety.
9. describe the different medical record systems.
10. define the process of obtaining a complete medical history.
11. complete daily records, exercise and feeding of kennel patients.
12. recognize the steps to an animal having a physical exam performed to assist with restraint or record keeping.
13. outline proper housing, care and feeding of ferrets, rabbits, pocket pets, exotics and birds.

## Resource Materials

### ***Required Text:***

None

### ***Reference Texts:***

Sirois, M. (2021). Elsevier's *veterinary assisting textbook* (3rd ed.) Elsevier.

McCurnin, D. (2018). *Clinical textbook for veterinary technicians* (9th ed.). Saunders.

Vanhorn, B. (2011). *Veterinary assisting fundamentals and applications*. Delmar.

Case, L. (2010). *Canine and Feline Behavior and Training*. Delmar.

Yin, S. (2009). *Low stress handling, restraint and behavior modification of dogs and cats*.

CattleDog Publishing.

## Conduct of Course

This course is 2 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of lab per week. Students are divided into smaller groups for lab sessions. The lecture portion of the course covers the theory and explains the techniques used. The lab portion allows the student to put the techniques into practice.

Presence in the labs is essential for hands on experience and learning. An unexcused absence in any lab results in a grade of "0" for the lab. Notify your instructor ***ahead of time***, of any unavoidable absences. A lab coat or scrub top and closed toed shoes must be worn for all in clinic labs.

## Evaluation Procedures

The final grade is an aggregate of the following components:

Quizzes	8%
Lecture Assignments	16%
Laboratory Assignments	26%
Kennel Care	14%
Midterm	12%
Final Exam	<u>24%</u>
Total	100%

## Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

*A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.*

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

**Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.**

This course must be successfully competed to continue on to 2nd semester courses.

## Attendance

Classroom and laboratory attendance is considered vital to the learning process and as significant to the students' evaluation as examinations and reports.

- a. Students having a combination of excused and/or unexcused absence of 20 percent or higher for the scheduled course hours will be required to withdraw and will automatically receive a "RW" (required withdrawal) for the course, regardless of any other evaluation results. (RW is a failing grade.)
- b. An excused absence is one that is verified with your Instructor. Verification should be prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence. Verification of the absence may take the form of a note from your doctor/College nurse regarding illness, or a note from another Instructor regarding a field trip or other activity, or authorization by your Instructor. An unexcused absence is anything NOT verified by the instructor prior to the absence or the next class day following the absence.

NOTE: Any exceptions to the above attendance policy (e.g. timetable conflicts, work-related issues) must be approved in writing by the Department Chair prior to the beginning of the course.

It is the students' responsibility to know their own absentee record.

Normal hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with potential for evening courses, exams or extended field trips. Students are expected to be available for classes during these times.

## **Course Units/Topics**

### **Lecture Units:**

1. Small animal restraint
2. Medical records
3. Taking medical histories
4. The physical examination and the role of the VMA
5. Dog and cat breeds, color patterns and pet selection
6. Husbandry, care and feeding of ferrets, rabbits, pocket pets and birds
7. Developmental stages in the dog and cat
8. Recognizing body language and behavior of small animals

### **Laboratory Units:**

1. Dog and cat restraint positions
2. Use of restraint devices
3. Directional terms
4. Feline kennel care and record keeping
5. Health record booklets and vaccination certificates
6. Canine Kennel care and record keeping
7. Patient history, record keeping for physical exams
8. Rabbit handling
9. Exotics and bird handling



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