

**VE139**  
**Veterinary Nursing Care**  
**3 Credits**

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## **VE139 Version: 7**



# **Veterinary Nursing Care**

## **Calendar Description**

This lab/lecture course instructs students in the basic understanding of pharmaceutical drugs, their purpose, route of administration and regulations surrounding their sale. A wide variety of nursing care techniques for large and small animals, neonates, and geriatrics are discussed. Emergency situations and the essentials within a crash cart are covered. The roles of the veterinary team in wildlife management are introduced. Large animal hands-on experience is obtained as students do various shifts on the college farm units.

## **Rationale**

This is a required course in the Veterinary Medical Assistant Program. Students learn rules and regulations of pharmaceutical drug sales with their AMSO certification. Nursing care techniques and medical records are a fundamental component of their day to day activities in practice which is enhanced through their various farm unit shifts. The laboratory component of this course allows students to practice the theory and techniques learned in lecture.

## **Prerequisites**

All VMA first semester courses

## **Co-Requisites**

None

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

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

1. complete large animal medical records.
2. outline rules and regulations of pharmaceutical sales.
3. recognize various syringes, needle sizes and their appropriate use.
4. explain various drug types, their purpose and route of administration.
5. read and understand various drug labels and the information contained within them.
6. prepare a prescription label.
7. identify the various stages of periodontal disease.

8. recognize common dental abnormalities in the cat, dog and horse.
9. use charting techniques to fill out various dental records.
10. advise owners of various dental home care options for their pets.
11. recognize the various stages of wound repair.
12. identify various bandage material and its purpose when applying bandages on both large and small animals.
13. define fluid loss and basic fluid therapy protocols.
14. identify emergency situations and the essentials within a crash cart.
15. explain issues in animal welfare and where help can be obtained.
16. identify the difference between animal rights and animal welfare.
17. identify and explain the requirements of neonates in various species.
18. identify and explain the requirements of geriatrics in various species.
19. recognize various roles of the veterinary team in wildlife management.
20. identify how to assess distressed wildlife and when intervention is needed.
21. analyze a farm, recognize biohazard issues and formulate appropriate recommendations.

## Resource Materials

### *Required Text(s):*

None

### *Reference Text(s):*

Sirois, M. (2021). *Elsevier's veterinary assisting textbook* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Vanhorn, B., & Clark R. W. (2011). *Veterinary assisting: Fundamentals and applications*.

Clifton Park, N.Y.: Delmar.

Bassett, J. M., Beal, A. D., Samples, O. M., & McCurnin, D. M. (2018). *McCurnin's clinical textbook for veterinary technicians* (9th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

## Conduct of Course

This course is 3 hours per week of lecture and 2 hours per week of lab. Students are divided in 2 sections for labs and groups of 1-3 for shifts on the college farm.

Presence in the labs is essential for the hands on experience of learning. An unexcused absence in any lab results in a grade of "0" for the entire lab portion. Prior notification is mandatory for any unavoidable absences.

Rotations must be completed as part of the overall lab portion. Failure to attend even one rotation results in a "0" for that lab. The lab component can **not** be passed until the rotation is made up at an agreeable time between the student and instructor.

Any lab held in the clinic requires a lab coat and those held on the farm require coveralls and steel toed boots.

## Evaluation Procedures

The final grade is an aggregate of the following components:

Lecture:		Lab:	
Quizzes	8%	Shifts	10%
Midterm	12%	Assignments	10%
Presentations	5%	Midterm Lab Exam	6%
Assignments	15%	Final Lab Exam	14%
Final	20%	Total	40%
Total	60%		

## 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 and be qualified to go on practicum.**

## 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**

1. Large animal medical records & feeding
2. Large animal husbandry medical devices
3. Drug classes, labels and packaging
4. Medications: formulations and routes of administration
5. Pharmaceutical rules and regulations
6. Prescription labels
7. Animal rights and welfare
8. Dental anatomy and periodontal disease
9. Dental charting, prophylaxis and home care
10. Bandaging and wound care
11. Emergency situations and triage
12. Crash carts and fluid therapy
13. Wildlife intervention and assistance
14. Neonates
15. Geriatrics



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