

VS 103
Animal Care and Nursing I

3 Credits

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VS 103 Version: 5



Animal Care and Nursing I

Calendar Description

This course provides an introduction into the general day-to-day tasks required within a veterinary clinic. Students learn how to properly maintain medical records, as well as proper clinic sanitation. The protocols associated with an isolation ward and biosecurity are also covered, as they relate to both small and large animal facilities.

Students are provided with an overview of livestock operations in Canada, including horse, poultry, swine, dairy, beef, and sheep. Production systems and current issues in different livestock industries are discussed.

Animal welfare issues affecting small and large animals are discussed.

Students also perform clinic duty rotations in the College Animal Hospital. This includes care and maintenance of clinic supplies, and clinic sanitation.

Rationale

This is a required course for first year Animal Health Technology students. It is designed to introduce the proper skills related to the maintenance of a hospital and the care associated with the patients within that hospital. In addition, empathy, ethics and projection of a good professional image are important skills for a technician to have. A clear understanding of the livestock industry in Canada is important for those working with livestock producers. Students in these programs require an understanding of all aspects of animal production including animal welfare and ethics. This course is intended to provide those not specializing in animal production with a basic understanding of how the industries function and of the animal welfare issues within each industry. The Animal Health Technology profession is portrayed as not only an “animal” profession, but as a “people” profession.

Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. list the members of the veterinary team and their roles in the veterinary hospital.
2. describe how a typical hospital functions.
3. explain how disease is transmitted between animals, people and the environment.
4. describe the biosecurity measures required within a veterinary facility.
5. explain the properties of the common disinfectants.
6. perform regular clinic maintenance, clinic hygiene and ensure provision of supplies.
7. explain the procedures and importance in maintaining veterinary facility disinfection protocols.
8. describe the human animal bond and the human animal relationship and the role of the veterinary team.
9. describe techniques used to implement a Fear Free Practice and achieve Fear Free certification as a veterinary team professional.
10. describe the on-farm management and production of common domesticated livestock and their products.
11. discuss current animal welfare issues affecting livestock producers in Canada.
12. recognize common terminology used within animal production systems.
13. identify various breeds of cattle, sheep, swine, poultry and horses.
14. describe the importance of animal welfare and the ethical treatment of animals kept for pets, or used in research.
15. describe the importance of animal welfare in animals kept in zoos and wildlife parks.

Resource Materials

Reference Text(s):

Bassett, J. M., Thomas, J. A., & McCurnin, D. M. (2014). *Clinical textbook for veterinary technicians* (8th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders.

http://www.library.ualberta.ca/permalink/opac/8432698/LAKELND_LLWEB

Field, T. G., & Taylor, R. E. (2016). *Scientific farm animal production: An introduction to animal science* (11th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson

Education Inc. http://www.library.ualberta.ca/permalink/opac/8153737/LAKELND_LLWEB

Conduct of Course

Students are assigned rotations in the College Animal Hospital, and work with other first and second year AHT and VMA students. This requires work after regular class hours and on weekends.

This course consists of 42 hours of lecture. Classroom instruction includes lectures, and videos to enhance the lecture material when appropriate. There is a mandatory fieldtrip associated with VS103 which will occur on a weekday but may involve hours outside of the normal school day.

Evaluation Procedures

Students are evaluated on their performance of clinic duty, including attendance and punctuality.

One unexcused missed shift may result in a failure in that portion of the course.

Clinic Duty Shifts	P/F
Clinic Cleaning	P/F
Assignments/projects/presentations and Discussion Boards	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Fear Free Certification	10%
Breed Quiz	5%
Final exam	35%
TOTAL	100%

Missed Exams:

If, for any reason, a student is unable to write one of the scheduled exams, the weight of that exam is transferred to the Final Exam as long as the instructor is given at least one week notice prior to the exam. This policy is also applied to exams missed due to illness as long as a doctor's note is provided. A "make-up" exam will not be arranged.

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

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

A grade of C (60%) is required in this course to progress to semester two in the Animal Health Technology program.

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

Clinic Duty Shifts and veterinary services - as assigned

Lecture:

The Veterinary Hospital

- The Veterinary Team
- How Veterinary Hospitals Function
- Hospital Regulations

Biosecurity

- Clinic Cleaning and Sanitation
- Common Disinfectants
- Biosecurity Risk Assessment

- Occupational Health and Safety
- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
- Medical Records and History Collection

The Human Animal Bond, and the Role of the Vet Team

Fear Free Practice

Livestock Production:

- Cattle Breeds and Beef and Dairy Production
- Sheep Breeds and Production
- Swine Breeds and Production
- Poultry Breeds and Production
- Horse Breeds and the Horse Production

Animal Welfare

History of Animal welfare

The 5 Freedoms

Animal Welfare Organizations and Advocates

CCAC

Production animal codes of practice

Small animal welfare issues

Euthanasia methods



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