

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Introduction to Animal Care

Course #: VET* 100

Course Description: 2 semester hours. This course is designed to give the students in the Veterinary Technology Program knowledge and basic experience with small, large, and laboratory animals. Basic animal husbandry topics discussed include breed differentiation, clinical nutrition, behavior, and species restraint techniques. (Fall)

Pre-requisites:

1. BIO*121 General Biology with a grade of "C" or above
2. CHE*111 Concepts of Chemistry
(Above courses must be college level courses with a grade of "C" or above and taken within 5 years prior to entering the program)
3. MAT*137 Intermediate Algebra or equivalent
4. CSA*105 Introduction to Software Applications

Goals: This course will allow students to develop a basic understanding of the necessary knowledge and skills required in order to recognize, feed, house, and handle the various species of small, large, and laboratory animals.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate and perform patient assessment techniques in a variety of animal species:
 - Recognize common domestic animal species and breeds:
 - Identify common cat breeds
 - Identify common dog breeds
 - Describe and use common animal identification methods:
 - Verify use of correct animal utilizing cage card/collar/microchip reading
 - Correctly use signalment to describe or ID animals
 - Demonstrate understanding of permanent identification
 - Demonstrate a knowledge of microchip placement
 - Demonstrate a knowledge of tattoo placement
 - Demonstrate effective and appropriate restraint techniques for various animal species:
 - Properly restrain dogs and cats for procedures:
 - Safely use the cat stretch technique to restrain a cat
 - Safely use a towel restraint technique to restrain a cat
 - Safely use a cat bag to restrain a cat
 - Safely place and maintain a cat and dog in lateral recumbency
 - Safely place and maintain a cat and dog in sternal recumbency
 - Encage and remove small animals from cages
 - Apply cat muzzle safely
 - Apply dog nylon and gauze muzzles safely

- Assemble and apply Elizabethan collar
- Safely use restraint pole and other restraint aids to include:
 - Safely use a restraint pole on dogs
 - Safely use leather gloves on cats (and very small dogs)
 - Safely use leash to restrain
- Safely restrain birds
- Safely restrain pocket pets and exotics
- Safely and effectively handle common laboratory animals used in animal research:
 - Differentiate and recognize common lab animal species:
 - Mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits and other common lab animal species
 - Safely restrain:
 - Mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits and other common lab animal species
 - Correctly determine sex:
 - Mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits and other common lab animal species
 - Perform and/or supervise basic care procedures for mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits and other common lab animal species:
 - Safe handling and carrying
 - Recognize appropriate feed and supplement plans
 - Provide water as needed
 - Understand basic reproductive cycles
 - Understand, recognize and safely use identification methods
 - Explain and recognize common diseases for mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits and other common lab animal species:
 - Demonstrate a knowledge of common pathogens for each species
 - Recognize common symptoms
- Understand the approach to providing safe and effective care for birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets:
 - Recognize, understand, and perform restraint techniques of birds*, reptiles, amphibians, rabbits and ferrets:
 - Recognize and identify one or more species for each group
 - Classify captive birds, reptiles, and amphibians using appropriate taxonomic categories
 - Demonstrate or describe proper restraint and handling of at least one representative of each group, including PPE required, and safety concerns for both technician and animal during restraint
 - Understand unique husbandry issues for each species (birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets) and provide client education:
 - Describe proper nutritional requirements for one or more species within each group
 - Describe how adequate water requirements are met for one or more species within each group
 - Describe adequate caging/housing requirements for one or more species within each group
 - Describe proper aquarium care, including water quality for aquatic animals
 - Describe and/or demonstrate proper basic grooming of one or more species within each group, including beak, wing, and nail clipping for caged birds, and including necessary PPE and safety measures necessary for technician and the animal

- Be able to describe and/or demonstrate appropriate methods of transporting animals within each group including safety concerns for hospital employees, the client and the animal
 - Perform physical exam:
 - State normal physiological parameters for a representative species of each group
 - Recognize normal versus abnormal physical findings of common pet species in each group
 - Describe or state major unique characteristics of body systems in each group
 - List common diseases and symptoms for caged birds, reptiles, rabbits and ferrets
 - Describe common zoonotic diseases, including prevention, associated with the species discussed
 - Recognize normal from abnormal behavior patterns:
 - Describe and/or recognize normal behaviors in at least one species from each group
 - Describe and/or recognize abnormal behavior patterns in at least one species from each group
 - Describe common behavior problems of at least one species from each group
 - Explain inadvisability of keeping wildlife as pets:
 - Explain why wildlife should not be kept as pets
 - Describe some legal pet alternatives when counseling clients
 - List potential zoonotic diseases and safety concerns of wildlife
- Non-human primates:
 - Understand restraint of non-human primates
 - Demonstrate knowledge of zoonotic diseases and modes of transmission