JEFFERSON COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS

VAT103

Animal Care

5 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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Revised 08/08

John Keck, Dean of Career & Technical Education
Animal Care introduces the student to techniques in basic handling and restraint needed to assist the veterinarian or veterinary technician in various clinical situations. The student is instructed in recognition of vital signs of animals and infectious diseases that cause deviation of these signs. Also included are tasks specific to veterinary assistants that include bathing and grooming, wound care, prescription filling, and basic nutrition. A laboratory session provides hands-on animal experience and practice of various techniques relevant to the profession of veterinary assistant.

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course provides the student with basic animal handling and restraint techniques that will apply to various medical situations. The student will learn basic bathing and grooming, recognition of disease signs, application of basic nutritional and husbandry techniques, and will be able to fill prescriptions following a veterinarian’s instructions.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

1. Handling and Restraint
   A. Removing and replacing animals to cage
   B. Restraining animals on tables
   C. Difficult and fractious animals
   D. Species variations
   E. Heavy lifting

2. Bathing and Grooming
   A. General bathing
   B. Ear cleaning
   C. Nails
   D. Anal glands
   E. Clipping matted animals
   F. Enemas
   G. Tooth brushing
   H. Feline grooming
3. **Vitals**
   
   A. Body temperature evaluation  
   B. Heart rate/pulse  
   C. Respiratory rate  
   D. Mucous membranes  
   E. Weight

4. **Small Animal Breeds**
   
   A. Canine  
   B. Feline  
   C. Various species identification

5. **Infectious diseases**
   
   A. Internal parasites  
   B. External parasites  
   C. Heartworm disease  
   D. Canine diseases  
   E. Feline diseases  
   F. Quarantine techniques and infection prevention

**IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. **Handling and Restraint:**
   
   Be able to safely and effectively enable examination and treatment of animals without injury to personnel or patient.

2. **Bathing and Grooming:**
   
   Be able to maintain or produce a healthy hair coat on an animal; safely clip and animal's nails; clean diseased ears and maintain healthy ears; express anal glands; brush teeth properly.

3. **Vitals:**
   
   Know and be able to take the normal vital signs of dogs and cats and be able to recognize abnormal variations that point to disease.
4. **Breed Identification:**

Be able to correctly identify common breeds of dogs and cats and know their common characteristics.

5. **Infectious Diseases:**

Become familiar with causative agents and recognize signs of infectious disease in dogs and cats. Know how to control the spread of disease in a hospital setting.

V. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

A. **Text**
B. **Audiovisuals**
C. **Lecture Materials/handouts provided by instructor**
D. **Volunteer/Observation hours**
E. **Laboratory Exercises**

VI. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)**

*Animal Restraint for Veterinary Professionals, C.C. Sheldon, Teresa Sonsthagen, and James A. Topel*

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK(S)**

*The Dog Bible, by Mehus-Roe*

VII. **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

A. **Audiovisual Aids**
B. **Instructional Materials Prepared by Instructor**

VIII. **SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES**

Available in Jefferson College Library

IX. **METHOD OF EVALUATION**

A. **Distribution of Final Grade**

There are written examinations, homework assignments, observation hours, attendance, participation and a comprehensive final examination which will comprise the final grade. Attendance and class participation are expected of the students. The instructor reserves the right to award or detract percentage points based on student class performance and professionalism.
Students are required to perform the 30 hours of observation in order to pass this course. The student will receive an F if this requirement is not met regardless of the students academic standing.

Students are expected to complete the course with at least a grade of C. Students who make a grade below C will be dropped from the program and invited to re-enroll and thus repeat the course the following year.

Any student found in noncompliance with the Jefferson College Honesty Policy as delineated in the Jefferson College and Veterinary Assistant Student Handbooks will receive a grade of F regardless of concurrent academic standing.

B. Assignment of Final Letter Grades

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = below 60

XI. ADA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone (636) 797-3000, ext. 169).

XII. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see Jefferson College Website).
http://www.jeffco.edu/jeffco/index.php?option=com_weblinks&catid=26&Itemid=84