1. Contact hours:
   Lectures 28  Praticals 28  Lecture/Practicals Laboratory  Other  Total 56

2. Objectives:
Zootechnics is responsible for the first approach to the general characteristics of the main animal species (production, companion and laboratory animals) focused in the Veterinary Medicine course. Students should be able to recognize the external characteristics of that species, to be acquainted with their identification methods and housing systems and to distinguish the main features and the biological or the production cycles of the local and foreign breeds reared in Portugal. This knowledge should allow the understanding of the importance of animals’ living conditions to disease and health and to the efficiency and profitability of production systems.

3. Programme:
Study in horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, birds, fish, dogs, cats and exotic species used as companion animals of the following subjects (when relevant): 1) Nomenclature of body’s external regions and features (points). 2) Types and classification of skin covering structures (hair, wool, feathers; coat colours, points, marks). 3) Age estimation methods: dental evolution, eruption times of temporary and permanent teeth, bone tissue growth, outward appearance. 4) Methods, systems and legislation of animal identification. 5) Portuguese breeds and foreign breeds occurring more frequently in Portugal: origin, distribution area, national heard, morphological features and main productive purposes. 6) Main production systems – biological/productive/reproductive cycles, general aspects of animal housing.

4. Bibliography:
Lecture notes prepared by teaching staff.

4. Assessment:
The students’ knowledge is evaluated at the end of the term with a written examination including theoretical and practical subjects.