



UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA
Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária

Animal Behavior, Welfare and Handling

Curricular Year: 1st

Duration: 2nd Semester

Credits: 5 ECTS

Teachers: Ilda Rosa (CCP e R)

Contact Hours: 63H Total.

28H Lectures; 28H Practical and laboratory teaching; 7H Seminar.

Learning objectives:

To characterize the behavior types studied in different animal species.

To observe the animals, in adequate facilities or in altered environments, in order to acknowledge the behaviors shown.

To differentiate a normal behavior from an abnormal one.

To establish the differences found among the normal behaviors observed in different animal species, determining what is physiological or pathological.

To select the signs of behavior changes that might indicate the existence of an associated pathology.

To recognize the presence of discomfort and having the perception of pain in its several forms.

To characterize the welfare rules, for each animal species, through referring to its basic needs and knowing to recognize changes on those.

To know the restraint methods used in several species using them correctly, knowing when and which to use, accordingly to the animal welfare.

To define the general condition of transport, training and handling of different animal species.

Program contents:

Theoretical: Applied Ethology: Physiology of behavior. Social behavior. Behavior organization. Feeding behavior. Stress and welfare. Sexual behavior. Clinical behaviors. Abnormal behavior. Animal welfare Principles: Animal welfare in general and specifically. Pain and suffering assessment. Cattle behavior and welfare. Horse behavior and welfare. Sheep and goat behavior and welfare. Pig behavior and welfare. Poultry behavior and welfare. Cat behavior and welfare. Dog behavior and welfare. Laboratory animals' behavior and welfare. Exotic animals' behavior and welfare.

Practical: Animal welfare case studies. Animal observation.

Practical component in driving, restraint and animal handling: Animal handling. Animal transport. Animal training. Animal restraint. Environmental enrichment.

Bibliography:

EKESBO, Ingvar; GUNNARSSON, Stefan (2018). Farm Animal Behaviour: Characteristics for Assessment of Health and Welfare 2nd Edition. CABI.

GOMES ROSA, I.M.N. (2025). Practical teaching protocol, F.M.V., Lisboa.

HOUP, Katherine A. (2018). Domestic Animal Behavior for Veterinarians and Animal Scientists, 6th Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.



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MARTIN, Vincent (2019). Animal Husbandry and Livestock Management Hardcover. Callisto Reference.

LANDSBERG, Gary; HUNTHAUSEN, Wayne, and ACKERMAN, Lowell (2013). Behavior Problems of the Dog and Cat, 3rd Edition, Saunders Ltd.

SHAW, J. (2014) Canine and Feline Behavior for Veterinary Technicians and Nurses, Iowa State University Press.

Assessment:

The assessment of the theoretical component will be accomplished through a written examination including open-ended questions.

The practical component will be evaluated in a continuous assessment during practical classes, including attendance sheet and in written examination in which students solve problems.

The student evaluation is also important to assess the efficiency of the teaching-learning methodologies, in compliance with the UC objectives, and to allow future adequate adjustments on the teaching methodologies and/or on the assessment of student's knowledge and skills.