



UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA
Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária

Professional Ethics, Bioethics and Soft-Skills

Curricular Year: 5th

Duration: Annual

Credits: 2 ECTS

Teachers: George Stilwell (CCP e R), Ana Mafalda Lourenço, João Afonso, João Afonso, Lisa Mestrinho, Luís Lamas.

Contact Hours: 50H Total.

26H Lectures; 264H Practical and laboratory teaching;

Learning objectives:

The main objective of the course is to prepare the future professional for his role as a member of the medical-veterinary class, that is, to prepare students to conduct their careers according to high ethical, deontological and humane standards. The so-called soft skills will also be presented and discussed, through which the student will learn to better deal with the partners of the profession and to better integrate human and personal skills with the functions and obligations as a professional. By incorporating these strategies into the veterinary medicine curriculum, students will develop skills that facilitate human contact and enable them to provide high-quality care to animals and their owners. On the other hand, these skills will help the future professional to prevent or resolve conflicts with clients, colleagues and other team members.

Program contents:

Lectures

1. Presentation of OMV – statutes, mission, functioning
2. Presentation of the SNMV – organization and mission.
3. Professional and Deontological Council and Code of Ethics
4. Ethical dilemmas in clinical work
5. Soft-skills – basic principles
6. Professional Communication – basics and variations across professional activities

Practical teaching

1. Presentation and discussion of malpractice cases and disciplinary prosecution.
2. Round tables on ethical issues and dilemmas:
3. Simulations of practitioners' conversations with owners. Students perform role-plays in clinical settings, where they can act as pet owners, practitioners or observers, practising communication and giving feedback (4 hours).

Tutorial teaching

Investigation of ethical issues related to clinical practice or research – presentation and discussion in the form of a case report on the use of animals in veterinary medicine or on deontology issues.



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Bibliography:

- Código Deontológico da OMV. www.omv.com
- Estatutos da OMV. www.omv.com
- Ethics in Veterinary Practice: Balancing Conflicting Interests (2022) Editor(s): Barry Kipperman, Bernard E. Rollin. John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- Effective Communication in Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice (2021) Christopher A. Adin & Kelly D. Farnsworth. 1st Ed. Elsevier. ISBN 9780323897464
- Guide for the integration of the Soft skills in vet (2017) <https://www.vetgps.eu/download/Integration%20of%20Soft%20Skills%20in%20VET-Guide.pdf>
- The Animal Ethics Reader (2017) Ed: Susan J. Armstrong, Richard G. Botzler. Routledge. ISBN 9781138918016
- Rollin, B.E. 2006. Science and ethics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sandøe, P., Christiansen, S.B., Appleby M.C. (2003) Farm animal welfare: the interaction of Ethical questions and animal welfare science. Animal Welfare, 12: 469-478
- Hodges J. (2003) Livestock, ethics, and quality of life. J. Anim. Sci. 81:2887–2894

Assessment:

The theoretical assessment will be done through a written exam divided into three parts:

- Deontology – 20 questions with true or false answers (10 points).
- Ethics – short analysis of ethical dilemma (5 points)
- Professional communication – 5 questions for short answers (5 points)

The theoretical-practical evaluation will be done through a report or monograph on a topic of animal ethics or professional ethics.

The final grade results from the weighted average of the exam result (80%) and the grade of the monograph (20%). A grade higher than 9.5 (in 20) in the written exam (theoretical) is required to be approved in the subject. The grade of the report (theoretical-practical) is not saved for later years.