

VT-2700: AVIAN AND EXOTIC ANIMAL MEDICINE

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: VT-2700 : Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine

Board of Trustees:

1/30/2025

Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

VT - Veterinary Technology

Course Number:

2700

Title:

Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine

Catalog Description:

Introduction to avian and exotic animal husbandry, physical examination, clinical procedures and common clinical conditions. Field trips may be included.

Credit Hour(s):

2

Lecture Hour(s):

2

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

VT-2610 Veterinary Anesthesia, Analgesia, and Dental Techniques , and VT-2412 Veterinary Pathology IV.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Provide safe, effective and humane treatment for domestic or wild bird species in a clinical practice or animal-care facility.

Objective(s):

1. Describe the basic husbandry and physical characteristics of the commonly encountered psittaciform, passerine, anseriform, columbiform, galliform, and falconiform birds a technician might encounter in an avian practice.
2. Explain clinically significant avian anatomy and physiology.
3. Explain the common methods for safe restraint of commonly encountered birds.
4. Describe the signs of common avian clinical problems and assist the veterinarian with appropriate diagnostic procedures and treatments.

Course Outcome(s):

Provide safe, effective, and humane treatment for domestic or wild reptilian species in a clinical practice or animal-care facility.

Objective(s):

1. Explain clinically significant reptile anatomy and physiology.
2. Explain the common methods for safe restraint of commonly encountered reptiles.

3. Describe the signs of common reptilian clinical problems and assist the veterinarian with appropriate diagnostic procedures and treatments.

Course Outcome(s):

Provide safe, effective, and humane treatment for domestic or wild amphibians and fish in a clinical practice or animal-care facility.

Objective(s):

1. Explain clinically significant domestic or wild amphibian and fish anatomy and physiology.
2. Explain the common methods for safe restraint commonly encountered amphibians and fish.
3. Describe the signs of common clinical problems and assist the veterinarian with appropriate diagnostic procedures and treatments for amphibian and fish species.

Course Outcome(s):

Provide safe, effective, and humane treatment for non-human primates (NHP).

Objective(s):

1. 1. Describe the basic husbandry and physical characteristics of the commonly encountered NHP a technician might encounter in an exotic species practice.
2. Explain clinically significant NHP anatomy and physiology.
3. Explain the common methods for safe restraint of commonly encountered NHP.
4. Describe the signs of common NHP clinical problems and assist the veterinarian with appropriate diagnostic procedures and treatments.

Course Outcome(s):

Instruct a client on the correct care for pets such as birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Objective(s):

1. Discuss routine husbandry procedures for commonly encountered exotic animal species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish including housing ventilation, heat/humidity, feed sanitation, water, and special requirements.
2. Obtain a good medical history for commonly encountered exotic animal species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish over the phone and advise an owner properly as to how to transport their animal to the veterinary office.
3. Explain the common methods for safe restraint of commonly encountered exotic animal species.

Course Outcome(s):

Advise clients on legalities of obtaining and owning wild animals (native or exotic) as pets.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the potential zoonotic disease issues that may arise with owning or handling exotic species.
2. Discuss legal ramifications of adopting wild animals (exotic or native) as pets.
3. Discuss federal and state laws dealing with orphaned wildlife and their care and rehabilitation.

Course Outcome(s):

Explain to a client the advantages and disadvantages of owning wild animals as pets.

Objective(s):

1. Explain proper care and husbandry to a client considering ownership of birds, reptiles, amphibians or fish.
2. Discuss federal and state laws dealing with orphaned wildlife and their care and rehabilitation.

Course Outcome(s):

Instruct a client who finds an apparently orphaned wild animal with legal and humane means of dealing with the animal.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the common methods for safe restraint of commonly encountered birds and reptiles.
2. Discuss federal and state laws dealing with orphaned wildlife and their care and rehabilitation.

Course Outcome(s):

Explain to a client the potential zoonotic diseases and safety issues that may arise with keeping exotic animals as pets.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the potential zoonotic disease issues that may arise with owning or handling exotic species.
2. Describe the common zoonotic diseases of avians, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Quizzes
2. Unit lecture examinations
3. Comprehensive final examination
4. Written assignments

Course Content Outline:

1. Introduction to different types of birds
 - a. Psittaciformes (parrots, budgerigars, cockatiels)
 - b. Passerines (finches, mynas, common songbirds)
 - c. Anseriformes (ducks, geese, most waterfowl)
 - d. Columbiformes (doves, pigeons)
 - e. Galliformes (chickens, pheasants, peafowl)
 - f. Falconiformes (raptors, hawks, falcons)
 - g. Struthioniformes (ostrich, emu, rhea)
2. Avian anatomy and physiology
3. Telephone techniques for avian inquiries
4. Obtaining a good avian history
5. Safe restraint of avians
6. Basic avian nutrition and housing requirements
7. Avian examination
 - a. Visual
 - b. Auscultation
 - c. Palpation
8. Avian husbandry procedures
 - a. Nail trims
 - b. Wing clips
 - c. Sex determination
 - d. Beak trims
 - e. Broken blood feathers
9. Avian diagnostic tests
 - a. Fecal examination
 - b. Cloacal swabs
 - c. Crop wash/cytologic examination
 - d. Bloodwork
 - e. Radiographic techniques
 - f. Oral and parenteral medication administration
10. Common avian problems
 - a. Problems associated with errors in husbandry and nutrition
 - b. Trauma
 - c. Toxicity
 - i. Oil soaked birds
 - ii. Organophosphate poisoning

- iii. Lead poisoning
 - iv. Plants
- d. Egg binding
- e. Chlamydiosis
- f. Beak problems and oral lesions
- g. Feather picking and behavioral problems
- h. Beak and feather syndrome
- i. Knemidokoptes mites, feather mites, lice
- j. Bumblefoot
- k. Avian pox
- l. Giardiasis and coccidiosis
- m. Visceral velotropic Newcastle disease
- 11. Lizard anatomy, husbandry, restraint, and common medical problems
 - a. Iguanas
 - b. Clinically significant anatomy
 - c. Husbandry and caging
 - d. Restraint techniques
 - e. Common medical problems
- 12. Snake anatomy, husbandry, restraint, and common medical problems
 - a. Common types of pet snakes
 - b. Clinically significant anatomy
 - c. Recognition of venomous reptiles
 - d. Husbandry and caging
 - e. Restraint techniques
 - f. Common medical problems
- 13. Turtle and tortoise anatomy, husbandry, restraint, and common medical problems
 - a. Aquatic (turtles) versus terrestrial (tortoises)
 - b. Clinically significant anatomy
 - c. Captive husbandry
 - d. Restraint techniques
 - e. Common medical problems
- 14. Amphibians and fish
 - a. Important species
 - b. Clinically significant anatomy
 - c. Husbandry and caging
 - d. Restraint techniques
 - e. Common medical procedures
 - f. Zoonotic diseases
- 15. NHPs and other species
 - a. Important species
 - b. Clinically significant anatomy
 - c. Husbandry and caging
 - d. Restraint techniques
 - e. Common medical procedures
 - f. Zoonotic diseases
- 16. Ethical and legal issues in wildlife management and rehabilitation
 - a. Veterinary technician's role in wildlife rehabilitation and release
 - b. Legal and ethical issues involving private ownership of exotic animals

Resources

Fowler, Murray E. *Restraint and Handling of Wild and Domestic Animals*. 3rd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.

Miller, Eric, et al., editors. *Fowler's . Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine*. 10th ed. W.B. Saunders, 2023.

Harrison, Greg J., and Linda R. Harrison. *Clinical Avian Medicine and Surgery, Including Aviculture*. W.B. Saunders, 1986.

Bassett, Joanna M., et al., editors. *McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians and Nurses*. 10th ed. Elsevier, 2022.

Jepson, Lance. *Exotic Animal Medicine : A Quick Reference Guide*. 2nd ed. Elsevier, 2016.

Quesenberry, Katherine Mans, et al., editors. *Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents: Clinical Medicine and Surgery*. 4th ed. Elsevier, 2021.

Divers, Stephen J., and Scott J. Stahl. *Mader's Reptile and Amphibian Medicine and Surgery*. 3rd ed. Elsevier, 2019.

Resources Other

On the floor at dove. <https://go.atdove.org/>

Top of page

Key: 4475