

# VT-2851: VETERINARY PRACTICUM AND SEMINAR I

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## Cuyahoga Community College

### Viewing: VT-2851 : Veterinary Practicum and Seminar I

**Board of Trustees:**

October 2024

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2025

**Subject Code**

VT - Veterinary Technology

**Course Number:**

2851

**Title:**

Veterinary Practicum and Seminar I

**Catalog Description:**

Includes practicum and on-campus seminar. In practicum, students observe and assist with common procedures in clinical settings. Clinical settings include small animal practice, animal population control facility, laboratory animal facility, equine practice, food animal practice/facility and exotic animal practice/facility. In seminar, students discuss individual clinical situations occurring during practicum experience, and study technicians role in euthanasia of an animal including methodology, mental preparation and understanding of the grieving owner.

Seminar: .5 hour per week.

**Credit Hour(s):**

1

**Lecture Hour(s):**

.5

**Other Hour(s):**

3.5

**Other Hour Details:**

Practicum: 3.5 hrs/week

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

VT-1410 Veterinary Science II.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Apply procedures and protocols learned in prior coursework to actual clinical cases and situations.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss admissions and outpatient procedures routinely encountered in a practice or facility.
2. Describe the different types of usage of farm animals, primates, and smaller animals in a research facility (applies only to a laboratory animal setting).
3. Describe assistance with the restraint, handling, and treatment of animals in a clinical setting.
4. Describe preventive medical procedures in a practice or facility.

5. Explain the handling and treatment of farm animals, primates, and smaller animal species in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines (applies only to a laboratory animal setting).
6. Describe the practice of strict safety procedures when working with animals.
7. Describe assistance with routine diagnostic procedures in a practice including both laboratory procedures and radiographic procedures.
8. Describe work with an experienced credentialed technician as they perform routine nursing care procedures including administration of parenteral medications and fluid therapy.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Serve as a cooperative member of a veterinary team inside of a clinical situation in a functioning animal-care veterinary facility situation.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss admissions and outpatient procedures routinely encountered in a practice or facility.
2. Explain the aesthetically less pleasing but frequently encountered situations which occur in a practice or facility and develop individual coping techniques for dealing with these situations.
3. Discuss the importance of teamwork in the veterinary setting and the professional role of a technician as a responsible team member.
4. Describe assistance with routine diagnostic procedures in a practice including both laboratory procedures and radiographic procedures.
5. Describe all phases of a veterinary surgical procedure including preparation of the room and patient, anesthetic induction, maintenance of general anesthesia, the surgical procedure, and the recovery period.
6. Explain how a veterinary technician can serve the community by educating the public about responsible pet ownership and pet care.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Describe the duties of a registered veterinary technician (RVT) in a variety of clinical situations.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

**Objective(s):**

1. Describe the impact of federal rules and regulations on the daily activities of a technician in a practice or facility.
2. Describe assistance with herd health checks and preparation of health certificates.
3. Explain the aesthetically less pleasing but frequently encountered situations which occur in a practice or facility and develop individual coping techniques for dealing with these situations.
4. Describe assistance with routine diagnostic procedures in a practice including both laboratory procedures and radiographic procedures.
5. Describe all phases of a veterinary surgical procedure including preparation of the room and patient, anesthetic induction, maintenance of general anesthesia, the surgical procedure, and the recovery period.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Interact with a variety of clients and animal stakeholders in a variety of clinical situations and clinical facilities.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

**Objective(s):**

1. Recognize the design of research protocols and demonstrate sensitivity to animal welfare issues (applies only to a laboratory animal setting).

2. Develop methods of handling unpleasant interpersonal situations, whether with a client or colleague, and demonstrate these in role-playing and actual clinical situations.
3. Discuss the importance of animal population control.
4. Discuss specialized techniques used to restrain wild and/or stray animals (applies only to an animal population control setting).

**Course Outcome(s):**

Handle situations involving euthanasia with diplomacy and empathy, understanding the power of the human-animal bond and the possible effects of its being shattered.

**Objective(s):**

1. List at least two "special circumstances" in which euthanasia can be especially difficult for a client and develop a helpful method for dealing with each.
2. Recognize the role of the owner as the euthanasia decision-maker.
3. Answer a child's questions about euthanasia in a non-threatening, non-frightening manner.
4. Describe the significant role pets play in the life of the elderly and offer comfort and support to these owners.
5. Describe the stages of the grieving process.
6. Describe the follow up procedures used by a veterinary hospital to help a grieving owner attain closure.
7. Describe the special safety precautions utilized when euthanizing a large animal.

**Course Outcome(s):**

Handle the stressful and frustrating aspects of the veterinary profession with a healthy coping strategy, avoiding "compassion fatigue."

**Objective(s):**

1. List at least two "special circumstances" in which euthanasia can be especially difficult for a client and develop a helpful method for dealing with each.
2. Recognize the role of the owner as the euthanasia decision-maker.
3. Describe the special safety precautions utilized when euthanizing a large animal.
4. Describe the available options for disposal of the body of a dead animal.
5. Describe how to dispose of a carcass in accordance with The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.
6. Describe the signs of "technician burnout" (compassion fatigue) associated with euthanasia and take steps to decrease this type of stress.
7. Describe the evidence required in order to validly charge someone with animal cruelty and know the difference between animal abuse and animal mistreatment due to ignorance (applies only to an animal population control setting).

**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Written clinical diaries
2. Clinical experience
3. Clinical instructor evaluation
4. Class participation
5. Homework assignments
6. Role-playing and experiential exercises.

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Observation of the professional attitude and actions of veterinary technicians and other veterinary hospital personnel
  - a. Attitude
  - b. Actions
  - c. Professionalism
2. Office procedures
  - a. Telephone inquiries and client communications
  - b. Hospital admissions
  - c. Health certificates
  - d. Medical records

- e. Insurance considerations
- f. Stocking and preparation of the mobile veterinary unit
- 3. Admissions and clinical procedures
  - a. Clerical procedures: outpatient appointments, vaccination reminders, fee collections, billing, inventory control
  - b. Preventive medicine procedures: vaccinations, fecal exams, heartworm testing and prevention, parasite control
  - c. Physical examinations and herd health checks
  - d. Patient record-keeping
  - e. Animal restraint techniques and safety
- 4. Laboratory procedures
  - a. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing
  - b. Fecal examinations
  - c. Complete blood counts (CBCs) and blood chemistries
  - d. Bacterial cultures and sensitivities
- 5. Surgical procedures
  - a. Surgical pack preparation and care
  - b. Surgical patient preparation
  - c. Observation of surgery
  - d. Anesthetic induction, maintenance and recovery
- 6. Radiographic procedures
  - a. Safety precautions
  - b. Animal positioning
  - c. Equipment usage and maintenance
  - d. Processing of the radiograph
  - e. Radiology logs
- 7. Nursing care procedures
  - a. Bandaging
  - b. Intravenous catheterization
  - c. Fluid administration
  - d. Administration of oral and parenteral medications
- 8. Animal control procedures (applies only to animal population control setting)
  - a. Humane laws of the country
  - b. Animal population control procedures
  - c. Preventive medicine and disease control in multianimal non-hospital facility
  - d. Handling of sick and/or injured stray animals
  - e. Leash laws
  - f. Animal licensing
  - g. Public relations - cruelty versus ignorance
- 9. Laboratory animal procedures (applies only to a laboratory animal setting)
  - a. Admissions of animals
    - i. Facility records
    - ii. USDA compliance records
  - b. Shadowing a veterinary technician
    - i. Routine husbandry
    - ii. Laboratory diagnostic procedures
    - iii. Treatments
    - iv. Anesthesia
    - v. Preparation for surgery
    - vi. Surgery
  - c. Shadowing a vet: ward rounds
- 10. Discussion of clinical cases encountered by students during their practicum experience
  - a. Role of the technician
  - b. Expanded discussion of clinical signs, treatment, preventive medicine
  - c. Resolving conflict
  - d. Individual academic and interpersonal strengths
- 11. Discussion of office interpersonal relations
  - a. Conflict
  - b. Resolution
  - c. Veterinary personnel roles
- 12. Methods of euthanasia

- a. Assessing euthanasia methods
    - i. ability to induce loss of consciousness without pain, distress, anxiety, or apprehension
    - ii. time required to induce loss of consciousness
    - iii. physical manifestations of the patient during euthanasia (muscle fasciculations, etc.)
    - iv. reliability
    - v. safety of personnel
    - vi. irreversibility
    - vii. compatibility with requirement and purpose
    - viii. drug availability and human abuse potential
    - ix. age and species limitations
    - x. effect on histopathology evaluation
    - xi. equipment cost and maintenance
  - b. Modes of action of euthanizing agents
  - c. Types of euthanasia agents/human recommendations
    - i. inhalant agents
    - ii. non-inhalant pharmaceutical agents
    - iii. physical methods
  - d. Special considerations
    - i. equine euthanasia
    - ii. euthanizing agents in animals intended for human or animal food
13. Disposal of the body
- a. Cremation
  - b. Burial
  - c. Hazardous waste considerations
14. Answering owner questions about euthanasia
- a. Special consideration
    - i. children
    - ii. adolescents
    - iii. elderly
    - iv. people who view their pets as children
  - b. Accepting owner decisions: attitudes of pet owners toward their pets
  - c. Preparing the owner for the procedure
15. Handling grief
- a. The grieving process
    - i. denial
    - ii. anger
    - iii. bargaining
    - iv. depression and grief
    - v. acceptance or resolution
  - b. Acknowledging the loss
    - i. acceptance and condolences
    - ii. when to recommend counseling
  - c. Technician grief and burn out (compassion fatigue)
    - i. sharing your emotions/supporting each other
    - ii. job rotation

## Resources

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

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Scott Dru . *Client Satisfaction: The Other Half of Your Job*. 3rd ed. Menlo Park, CA: Crisp Publications, Inc., 2000.

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Haberer, JoAnn. *Teamwork: 50 Ways to Make It Work in Your Practice*. 2nd ed. Menlo Park, CA: Crisp Publications, 1997.

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Adin, Christopher A., and Kelly D. Farnsworth. *Effective Communication in Veterinary Medicine, an Issue of Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice*. Philadelphia: Elsevier, 2021.

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Prendergast, Heather. *Front Office Management for the Veterinary Team*. 1st. St. Louis, MO: Saunders, 2011.

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Kubler-Ross, Elisabeth, and David Kessler. *On Grief and Grieving*. 2nd ed. Taylor and Francis, 2014.

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"JAVMA"

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"Veterinary Economics"

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Prendergast, Heather. *Review Questions and Answers for Veterinary Technicians*. 6th ed. St. Louis, MO.: Elsevier, 2022.

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Tighe, Monica, and Marg Brown, editors. *Mosby's Comprehensive Review for Veterinary Technicians*. 5th ed. St. Louis, MO.: Elsevier., 2020.

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## Resources Other

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

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