

VT-2860: VETERINARY PRACTICUM AND SEMINAR II

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: VT-2860 : Veterinary Practicum and Seminar II

Board of Trustees:

October 2024

Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

VT - Veterinary Technology

Course Number:

2860

Title:

Veterinary Practicum and Seminar II

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 the veterinary practicum experience, study the technician's role in pediatrics and first aid, and prepare to search for employment. Seminar: 1 hour per week.

Credit Hour(s):

2

Lecture Hour(s):

1

Other Hour(s):

7

Other Hour Details:

Practicum: 7 hours per week

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

VT-2851 Veterinary Practicum and Seminar I.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Perform the duties of a newly-graduated registered veterinary technician (RVT) in a variety of veterinary facilities.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

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 herd health checks and preparation of health certificates.
4. Describe assistance with the restraint, handling, and treatment of animals in a clinical setting.
5. Describe preventive medical procedures in a practice or facility.
6. Recognize the design of research protocols and demonstrate sensitivity to animal welfare issues (applies only to a laboratory animal setting).
7. 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).
8. Describe the practice of strict safety procedures when working with animals.

9. Explain how to help an owner of a dog, cat, or horse assemble a first aid kit which most will suit most possible future needs of their animal
10. Discuss the importance of teamwork in the veterinary setting and the professional role of a technician as a responsible team member.
11. Describe assistance with routine diagnostic procedures in a practice including both laboratory procedures and radiographic procedures.
12. 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.
13. Describe work with a trained technician as they perform routine nursing care procedures including administration of parenteral medications and fluid therapy.

Course Outcome(s):

Communicate successfully with a variety of clients and colleagues with the goal of optimizing patient care and client service in a variety in veterinary and animal-care facilities.

Objective(s):

1. Discuss admissions and outpatient procedures routinely encountered in a practice or facility.
2. Describe the impact of federal rules and regulations on the daily activities of a technician in a practice or facility.
3. Explain the common first aid treatments prescribed to owners over the phone by a veterinarian for the treatment of wounds, burns, poisonings, heatstrokes, and bee stings.
4. Explain how a veterinary technician can serve the community by educating the public about responsible pet ownership and pet care.

Course Outcome(s):

Handle situations with clients and colleagues that may involve difficult or dangerous aspects.

Objective(s):

1. Describe the practice of strict safety procedures when working with animals.
2. Explain the aesthetically less pleasing but frequently encountered situations which occur in a practice or facility, and identify individual coping techniques for dealing with these 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).
5. 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).

Course Outcome(s):

Develop a plan for successfully pursuing career opportunities as a veterinary technician.

Objective(s):

1. Describe their own personal strengths and weaknesses as they relate to the veterinary work environment.
2. Explain the general qualities an employer considers most desirable in a veterinary technician and know whether or not these qualities parallel their own personal strengths and/or weaknesses.
3. Describe where to look for employment opportunities within the veterinary technology career field.
4. Describe the steps necessary to attain membership in the most commonly recognized professional veterinary technician organizations.
5. Discuss realistic professional goals which extend past graduation.
6. Evaluate one's own strengths and weaknesses as they relate to the veterinary workplace.
7. Explain which aspects of a given job opportunity are most important and which are less important and may therefore be bargained away.
8. List at least three websites or other areas at which a newly graduated RVT may find a suitable and satisfying job.
9. Evaluate a potential job opportunity for one's own comfort and fit and for the salary and benefits offered.

Course Outcome(s):

Present a competent professional image at an interview for an entry-level RVT position, considering both the formal question-and-answer and the working portion of the interview.

Objective(s):

1. Answer the most commonly asked questions during job interviews and participate in simulated job interviews.

2. Explain the general qualities an employer considers most desirable in a veterinary technician and know whether or not these qualities parallel their own personal strengths and/or weaknesses.
 3. Describe their own personal strengths and weaknesses as they relate to the veterinary work environment.
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Methods of Evaluation:

1. Attendance
2. Punctuality
3. Written clinical diaries
4. Clinical experience
5. Clinical instructor evaluation
6. Class participation
7. Homework assignments

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 conflicts
 - d. Individual academic and interpersonal strengths
- 11. Discussion of office interpersonal relations
 - a. Conflict
 - b. Resolution
 - c. Veterinary personnel roles
- 12. First aid
 - a. Small animal first aid kit for owners
 - b. Large animal first aid kit for owners
 - c. Advising owners on how to handle common medical problems
 - i. Wounds and bleeding
 - ii. Heatstroke
 - iii. Bee stings and anaphylactic reactions
 - iv. Poisoning
 - v. Burns
- 13. Characteristics of a good employee technician
 - a. Dress code
 - b. Timeliness
 - c. Preparedness
 - d. Professionalism
 - e. Compassion fatigue
 - f. Work ethic
- 14. Employment search
 - a. Finding employment opportunities/networking
 - b. First inquiry
 - c. Written employment applications
 - d. Resume preparation
 - e. Preparing for the job interview
 - f. Simulated job interviews
 - g. Evaluating whether this job is right for you
 - h. Follow up interview letters
 - i. Negotiating a salary and benefits package
 - j. Simulated employment contracts
- 15. Discussion of memberships in professional organizations
 - a. North American Veterinary Technician Association (NAVTA)
 - b. Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT)
 - c. American Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians (AAZVT)
 - d. American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)
- 16. Veterinary Technician credentialing processes

- a. Ohio
 - b. Other states
17. Setting goals for the future
- a. Individual
 - b. Technicians as a group

The Course Schedule is subject to change due to pedagogical needs, instructor discretion, parts of term, and unexpected events.

Resources for the Instructor

Bassett, Joanna M., et al., editors. *McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians*. 10th ed. St. Louis, MO: Elsevier, 2021.

Whitcomb, Susan Britton. *Resume Magic: Trade Secrets of a Professional Resume Writer*. 4th ed. Indianapolis, IN: JIST Publishing, 2010.

Rosenberg, Arthur D. *The Resume Handbook*. 5th ed. Avon, MA: Adams Media, 2008.

Opperman, Mark, et al. *The Art of Veterinary Practice Management*. 2nd ed. Lenexa, KS: Advanstar, 2014.

Harvard Business Essentials. *Business Communications*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2003.

Ball, Michael. *Understanding Equine First Aid*. 2nd ed. Lexington, KY: The Blood-Horse Publications, 2004.

American Red Cross. *Dog First Aid*. Yardley, PA: Stay Well, 2008.

American Red Cross. *Cat First Aid*. 1st. Yardley, PA: Stay Well, 2008.

"JAVMA"

"Veterinary Economics"

"DVM Magazine"

Cuyahoga Community College Career Services Center. "Get It on Your Resume"

Dvm360. "Veterinary Economics"

"Veterinary Practice Staff"

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

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

Additional Resources for the Instructor

1. Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT). <https://ohiorvt.org>
2. Technician Registration Information. The Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board. <https://www.ovmlb.ohio.gov>
3. North American Veterinary Technician Association (NAVTA). <https://avta.net>
4. "DVM The News Magazine of Veterinary Medicine." Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publications, monthly
5. Bain, Fairfield, and Rhonda Rathgeber. First Aid for Horses. The Blood Horse DVD Collection. 2008.
6. On the floor at Dove: <https://go.atdove.org/>

Top of page

Key: 4480