STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

VSCT 101 – FUNDAMENTAL VETERINARY NURSING SKILLS I

Prepared By: Sophia C. Theodore, DVM

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
VETERINARY SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY
MAY 2015
A. **TITLE:** Fundamental Veterinary Nursing Skills I

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** VSCT 101

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 2

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** One 50-minute lecture per week, 2 hours of laboratory per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the Veterinary Technology profession and fundamental animal care nursing skills. Students learn how to properly restrain cats and dogs, administer parenteral injections on models, take a patient history, complete medical records, conduct a physical examination, and perform clinical procedures related to primary patient care. Students also learn to identify cat and dog breeds and surgical instruments. Competencies related to basic nursing care are conducted at the end of the course. Course is limited to freshman students in the Veterinary Science Technology curriculum. This course is a prerequisite to all other VSCT courses.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES OR CO-COURSES:** Admission to parent program, Intro to Animal Agriculture (VSCT 103), College Biology (BIOL 150) with Lab and College Chemistry I (CHEM 150) with Lab

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

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<th>Course Objective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss veterinary science careers, responsibilities, and professionalism.</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>Discuss the legal and ethical context of practice.</td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>Comply with occupational health and safety guidelines in veterinary medicine.</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>Recognize surgical instruments and describe their use.</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>Identify cat breeds and dog breeds.</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>Discuss temporary and permanent methods of animal identification.</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>Take patient histories and create and maintain client/patient records.</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>Correctly sanitize and clean patient housing areas and exam tables.</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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Correctly remove dogs and cats from cages and restrain them for examinations and procedures.  
Perform physical examinations on cats and dogs.  
Perform primary patient care procedures on cats and dogs

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<th>3. Prof. Competence</th>
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K. **REQUIRED TEXTS for course:**
- Lecture and laboratory note packet
- Program Manual / Essential Tasks booklet

**REQUIRED TEXT FOR PROGRAM:**

L. **REFERENCES:** Campus library, *Veterinary Technician Journal*

M. **EQUIPMENT:**
- ANGEL learning system: [http://www.canton.edu/angel/](http://www.canton.edu/angel/)
- Laboratory supplies and equipment

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A - F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**
- Quizzes
- Midterm
- Cumulative Final
- Clinical Competency
- Participation

P. **DETAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE:**

I. Directional and Positional Terms
   A. Directional terms
   B. Positional terms

II. The Veterinary Technology profession
   A. Education and testing
   B. Credentials
   C. Professional associations
   D. Specialization
   E. Certifications that do not require licensure
   F. Career opportunities
   G. Responsibilities of veterinarians and veterinary technicians

III. Laws governing veterinary technology
   A. The Practice Act
   B. State Veterinary Board
   C. Rules and Regulations
D. Continuing education requirements
E. Types of law
F. Federal government agencies that regulate veterinary medicine
G. State government agencies that regulate veterinary medicine

IV. Ethics in Veterinary Technology
   A. 3 tiers of ethics
   B. Professional ideals
   C. Utilitarianism
   D. Deontology
   E. Ethical dilemmas
   F. Veterinary Technician’s Code of Ethics

V. Medical records
   A. Importance thereof
   B. Release of medical information
   C. Making entries in medical records
   D. Paperless records
   E. Information to include in medical records
   F. Medical records formats

VI. History taking
   A. Information included in the History
   B. History of the present problem

VII. Occupational safety & health in Veterinary Technology
   A. Animal-related injuries & illnesses
   B. Laboratory hazards
   C. Sharps
   D. Radiation safety
   E. Anesthetics
   F. Toxic chemicals
   G. Preventing & addressing work-related illness & injury

VIII. Regulated medical waste

IX. Cat breeds and dog breeds

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE:

   I. Disinfection & cleaning
      A. Definitions
      B. Chemical disinfectants
      C. Preventing the spread of infectious agents in a veterinary facility
      D. Procedure for cleaning surfaces, cages, kennels
      E. Antiseptics

   II. Animal identification methods
A. Reasons for identifying animals
B. Temporary identification methods for various species
C. Permanent identification methods for various species
D. Microchipping procedure
E. Scanning for a microchip

III. Introduction to restraint
A. Reasons for restraint & principles of restraint
B. Sources & effects of stress & struggling
C. Types of restraint
D. Amount of restraint needed

IV. Feline cage removal & restraint
A. Behavioral signals
B. Restraint for procedures
C. Restraint for venipuncture

V. Canine cage removal & restraint
A. Behavioral signals
B. Approaching a dog
C. Use of the slip leash
D. Cage or carrier removal
E. Snubbing
F. Lifting a dog
G. Muzzling
H. Restraint for venipuncture

VI. Physical examination introduction
A. Senses to use
B. Body condition scoring
C. Completion of a physical exam form

VII. Lymph node palpation

VIII. Oral examination & dentistry introduction
A. Terminology
B. Assessing mucous membrane color
C. Assessing capillary refill time
D. Dental formulas
E. Aging cats & dogs by dentition
F. Signs of oropharyngeal or periodontal disease
G. Problems to look for upon oral exam
H. Dentistry instruments
I. Client education

IX. Ear examination & care
A. Terminology
B. Anatomy of the ear
C. Behavioral indications of ear problems
D. Examination of the pinnae
E. Examination of the ear canal
F. Otitis
G. Taking and examining an ear mite sample
H. Use of the otoscope
I. Cleaning the ears
J. Instilling medication in the ears
K. Client communication

X. Eye examination & care
   A. Terminology
   B. Conditions of the eye
   C. Examination of the eye
      a. Reflexes and responses to test
      b. Use of the pen light
      c. Other diagnostic tools
   D. Removal of exudates from the eye
   Application of eye medication

XI. Intranasal administration

XII. Needles, syringes, injections on animal models
   A. Parts of needles & syringes
   B. Needle & syringe sizes
   C. Injection types
   D. Drawing up fluid in a syringe
   E. Subcutaneous injections on models
   F. Intramuscular injections on models

XIII. Suture & staple removal

XIV. Integument
   A. Terminology
   B. Parasites found in or on the skin
   C. Ringworm
   D. Lipomas & abscesses

XV. Auscultation & measurement of heart rate, pulse, & respirations
   A. Parts of the stethoscope
   B. Terminology
   C. Auscultation of the heart
   D. Pulse
   E. Examination of the upper respiratory tract
   F. Auscultation of the lungs

XVI. Use of the thermometer
A. Anatomical location
B. Types of thermometers
C. Preparing thermometer for use
D. Restraint
E. Taking a temperature
F. Reading thermometers

XVII. Hydration status
   A. Normal fluid losses
   B. Excessive fluid losses
   C. Inadequate fluid intake
   D. Methods of assessing hydration status
   E. Percent dehydration

XVIII. Oral medication
   A. Why used and when not to use
   B. Terminology
   C. Administration of liquids
   D. Tablets, capsules, & gelcaps
   E. Pilling a dog
   F. Pilling a cat
   G. Pill guns
   H. Use of forceps
   I. Owner compliance issues

XIX. Therapeutic grooming & pedicures
   A. Why grooming is important
   B. Grooming supplies and their care
   C. Importance of nail trimming
   D. Types of nail trimmers
   E. Locating the quick
   F. Nail trimming procedure

XX. Surgical instruments and their use