COURSE OUTLINE

VSCT 102 – COMPANION ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Prepared By: Mary O’Horo Loomis, DVM
Tony Beane, DVM
A. **TITLE:** Companion Animal Behavior

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** VSCT 102

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 2

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

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

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**
   2 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**
   This course is designed to help veterinary technicians gain insight and understanding into normal animal behavior. Emphasis is on analyzing problem behavior, preventative counseling, taking a behavioral history and client education of common canine and feline behavioral problems. In addition, avian and equine behavioral issues will also be discussed.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
   b. Co-requisite(s): none

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
   By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Describe aspects of normal social behavior and identify socialization periods</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>b. List and describe the most common behavioral complaints of companion animals,</td>
<td>3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>exotic animals and horses.</td>
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<td>d. Identify and explain treatment options, including behavior modification</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>techniques and drug therapy.</td>
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<td>services.</td>
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K. **TEXTS:** Workbook: Companion Animal Behavior Note Packet

L. **REFERENCES:** none

M. **EQUIPMENT:** none

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

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**
   Exams

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. Introduction and the importance of behavioral study in veterinary practice.
   A. Veterinary hospitals and animal behavior
   B. Staff interaction

II. Normal Canine Behavior
   A. Domestication
   B. Senses and Normal Behaviors
   C. Canine Genetics
   D. Proactive Behavior Assessment

III. Canine Behavior Problems and modifications
   A. Aggression
   B. Elimination
   C. Destructive
   D. Separation Anxiety
   E. Phobias
   F. Compulsive Behavior
   G. Introducing new pets to households

IV. Pharmacology and drugs used in behavior modification

V. Temperament Testing

VI. Normal Feline Behavior
   A. Domestication
   B. Senses and Normal Behaviors

VII. Feline Behavioral Problems
    A. Aggression
    B. House Soiling

VIII. Normal Equine Behaviors

IX. Equine Behavioral Problems
    A. Vices
    B. Foal Rejection
    C. Aggression
    D. Phobias
    E. Imprinting

X. Behavior problems in avian patients

XI. Behavior Modification Services & the Technicians Role

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** NA