

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



COURSE OUTLINE

VSCT 305 - Animal Behavior in Veterinary Practice

Prepared By: Sophia Theodore, DVM  
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SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
VETERINARY SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY  
FALL 2019

- A. **TITLE:** Animal Behavior in Veterinary Practice
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** VSCT 305
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**  
3 lecture hours per week
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**  
This course examines the normal and abnormal behavior of domestic animals, with emphasis on analyzing companion animal behavior disorders, taking a behavioral history, examining treatment methods and providing client education and preventative counseling. Common pharmaceutical therapies used in behavioral modification will be discussed. Domestic ruminant, bird and captive animals' behavioral issues will also be discussed. Students will be expected to analyze case studies and discuss possible modification tactics.
- I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**  
a. Pre-requisite(s): VSCT 203 Small Animal Medicine and Therapeutic Techniques, VSCT 204 Large Animal Medicine and Therapeutic Techniques.  
b. Co-requisite(s): none
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**  
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

| <i>Course Objective</i>  | <i>Institutional SLO</i>  |
|--|---|
| a. Explore the roles of the LVT in behavioral counseling and incorporate these roles in a modern veterinary practice                             | 5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills |
| b. Explain the normal behaviors of the common domestic species and discuss these with veterinary clients   | 5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills |
| c. Describe the most common behavioral disorders of companion animals and summarize the common modifications that may be applied to correct them | 5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills |
| d. Outline methods of behavioral assessment in animals and analyze the typical problems and controversies associated                             | 5. Industry, Professional,  |

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| with them  | Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills |
| e. Identify and explain the use of various therapeutic agents used in behavior modification. | 5. Industry, Professional,               |

**K. TEXTS**

Shaw and Martin, Canine and Feline Behavior for Veterinary Technicians and Nurses Ames, Iowa: Wiley- Blackwell, 2015.

Bassert and Thomas, McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians. St. Louis, Missouri: Elsevier, 2014.

**L. REFERENCES:** none

**M. EQUIPMENT:** none

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

**O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Exams
- Case Study Reports

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. The role of the veterinary technician in animal behavior
  - A. Veterinary hospitals and animal behavior
  - B. Differentiation of medical versus behavioral problems
- II. Neurologic origin of behavior and learning
  - A. Basic neurophysiology and behavior
  - B. Domestication
  - C. Senses and Normal Behaviors
- III. Canine Behavior and Development
  - A. The Senses
  - B. Social Behavior and Socialization
  - C. Normal Canine Behavior
- IV. Common Canine Behavioral Problems and modification techniques
  - A. Aggression
  - B. Elimination
  - C. Destructive
  - D. Separation Anxiety
  - E. Phobias
  - F. Compulsive Behavior
  - G. Introducing new pets to households

- V. Psychopharmacology: drugs used in behavior modification
  - A. Tranquilizers
  - B. Antidepressants
  - C. Mood stabilizers
  - D. Anti-anxiety Medications
  - E. Other
  
- VI. Feline Behavior and Development
  - A. The Senses
  - B. Social Behavior and Socialization
  - C. Normal Feline Behavior
  
- Feline Behavioral Problems
- VII.
  - A. Aggression
  - B. House Soiling
  - C. Anxiety Disorders
  
- Equine Behaviors and Development
- VIII.
  - A. The Senses
  - B. Social Behavior and Socialization
  - C. Normal Equine Behavior
  
- Equine Behavioral Problems
- IX.
  - A. Vices
  - B. Foal Rejection
  - C. Aggression
  - D. Phobias
  - E. Imprinting
  
- Behavior Modification and Problem Prevention
- X.
  - A. Habituation, Operant conditioning & classical conditioning
  - B. Management and prevention techniques
  - C. Environmental enrichment
  - D. Temperament testing and pet selection counseling
  
- XI. Client Communication
  - A. The Human-Animal Bond
  - B. Assessment of Behavioral Cases
  - C. Case Studies of Behavior Problems
  
- XII. Cattle and Small Ruminants
  - A. Species Typical Behaviors
  - B. Common Behavioral Problems
  
- XIII. Behavior problems in pet birds and captive animals
  - A. Typical behaviors and enrichment
  - B. Common Behavioral Problems