



VETT 460 LAB ANIMAL AND EXOTIC DISEASE AND MANAGEMENT
 COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024
 Online Lecture: Asynchronous
 Lab: Fast Track TBA

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Amanda Laffoon M.Ed. BAS, LVT, LAT
 Office: Virtual
 Office hours: By appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Course Start: 1/16/2024
 Certification: 1/31/2024
 Drop: 4/16/2024
 Course end: 5/7/2024

Textbook(s)

- **Required:**
 - Laboratory Animal and Exotic Pet Medicine, 3rd Edition
 - By: Margi Sirois, EdD, MS, RVT, CVT, LAT, VTES
 - ISBN: 9780323778169

Software Required: Any Internet vehicle, including Google Chrome, Firefox, etc., that follows the below supported browsers. Also, lecture materials, supplemental worksheets, videos, and slides will be available on D2L, which will need to be opened using Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft PowerPoint.

Optional Texts and/or Materials: There will be links to images, videos, and other supplemental materials.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the husbandry, handling, restraint, care, and use of exotics and laboratory animals. Includes discussion of uncommon diseases, biosecurity, and public health. The care and use of laboratory animals will be covered in depth.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be able to handle common laboratory animals used in animal research safely and effectively.
2. The student will be able to understand the approach to providing safe and effective care for birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Examples include using the learning management system, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, presentations and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This section describes the learning process (delivery modalities, course structure, Getting Started, and types of learning activities and assessments).

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Examples include regularly logging into the course website, approximately 6 hours of weekly study, and 3 hours of expected participation time. These anticipated times are an estimation and may require more or less.

GRADING

1. Assignments/Study Guides

- **Late homework:** Homework will be due at a specific date and time. Any time after the due date, the homework is considered late and will receive an automatic 10-point deduction each day (up to three days). After day three, the assignment closes, and the student will receive a zero.

2. Quizzes

- There will be weekly quizzes based on the module/chapter(s) covered in the textbook.
- Many questions will come from the study guide, so ensure you complete them and ask any questions you have before taking your online quiz.
- Any time after the due date, the quiz is considered late and will receive an automatic 10-point deduction each day (up to three days). After day three, the assignment closes, and the student will receive a zero.

3. Exams

- There will be three exams given throughout the semester.
- Exams will not be granted any late submissions.

4. Discussion board:

- Each week, there will be a topic relating to your chapter.
 - i. Summarize the topic in 4-5 well-written, complete sentences.
 - ii. You may use the book, but add **YOUR** educated opinion to the discussion. Do not copy and paste. I don't want to read the same thing from each student.

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- iii. Provide the link to any credible websites or articles used (usually, these are .gov or .edu). Ensure the person who has written the article is a DVM, Credentialed Technician, or someone with a doctorate.
 - iv. Choose one of your fellow students' posts to comment on.
 - v. If a post already has two comments, please try to comment on one that hasn't been commented on yet.
 - vi. If someone asks a question in their comment on YOUR post, ensure that you respond.
- Discussions will not be granted any late submissions.

5. AVMA Task List

- The task list is a pass/fail for the class.

The final grade in the course will be based on your accumulated total points during the semester according to the following distribution:

Quizzes	150 points
Assignment/Study Guides	186 points
Journal Club and Rounds (15 x 15 pts)	210 points
Exams (3 x 100 points)	300 points
AVMA Task List	Pass/Fail
Lafeber CE (3x 10)	30 points
Total	876 points

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Please contact your instructor if you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material.

Technical Support

If you have technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor's communication response time and assessment feedback will be as quick as possible. Delayed response time over the weekend and holidays.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late work will not be accepted on exams or discussions. Assignments and quizzes have a three-day grace with a 10-point deduction each day.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

Please visit the web pages below for more information about the attendance policy.
[Attendance,](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.9.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5930
Fax (903) 468-8148

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Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom and in online courses with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

CVTEA Last update to this section: Jan 2024

<https://www.avma.org/education/center-for-veterinary-accreditation/committee-veterinary-technician-education-activities/cvtea-accreditation-policies-and-procedures-appendix-g>

8. LABORATORY ANIMAL PROCEDURES

Skill: Safely and effectively handle common laboratory animals used in animal research.

Tasks: Mice or rats, and rabbits

- *Recognize and restrain (mouse/rat, rabbit)**
- *Determine sex and understand reproduction (mouse/rat, rabbit)**
- Perform and/or supervise basic care procedures:
 - *handling (mouse/rat, rabbit)**
 - *nutritional needs/diet**
 - *provide food, water, and enrichment in a species-appropriate manner (mouse/rat, rabbit)**
 - *trim nails*
 - *identification**
- *Perform methods of injection:*

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- *subcutaneous (mouse/rat, rabbit)**
- *intramuscular (rabbit)*
- *intra dermal (rabbit)*
- *intraperitoneal (mouse/rat*) [GROUP]*
- *intravenous*
- *Collect blood samples*
 - *Intravenous (mice/rat, rabbit) [GROUP]**
- *Perform oral dosing (mouse/rat)* [GROUP]*
- Have working knowledge of anesthetic and recovery procedures*
- Identify and describe clinical signs of common diseases*
- *Perform necropsy and collect specimens*
- *Clean and medicate ears (rabbit)*
- *Anesthetize mouse/rat, and rabbit*

Tasks: Non-human primates

- Understand restraint of non-human primates
- Demonstrate knowledge of zoonotic diseases and modes of transmission

Decision-making abilities: The veterinary technician will be familiar with the basic principles of animal research and understand the utilization of laboratory animals in animal research. The veterinary technician will also have knowledge of federal, state, and local animal welfare regulations.

9. AVIAN, EXOTIC, AND SMALL MAMMALS PROCEDURES

Skill: Understand the approach to providing safe and effective care for birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets.

Tasks:

- *Recognize, understand, and perform restraint techniques of birds*, reptiles, amphibians, and ferrets*
- Understand unique husbandry issues for each species (birds, reptiles, amphibians, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and ferrets) and provide client education*:
 - nutritional needs/diet
 - watering
 - caging (temperature, humidity, light)
 - aquarium care
 - understand reproduction
 - basic grooming (beak, wing, and nail clipping)
 - appropriate transportation methods
- *Demonstrate the ability to perform a physical exam and accurately record results : birds*, reptiles, amphibians, and ferrets*
- *Perform nail trim (bird*, exotic, small mammal)[GROUP]*
- *Perform injections using appropriate sites*
 - *subcutaneous*
 - *intramuscular*
 - *intra dermal*
 - *intraperitoneal*

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- *intravenous*
- *Perform oral dosing*
- Administer drugs or medicaments using appropriate sites and routes
- Understand appropriate sites for intravenous catheter placement
- Understand tube feeding in birds
- Perform laboratory procedures
- *Anesthetize birds and exotic animals*
- Recognize normal and abnormal behavior patterns
- Explain inadvisability of keeping wildlife as pets
- *Collect blood samples*

Decision-making abilities: Given the unique requirements of these species, the veterinary technician will safely obtain subjective and objective data that will allow evaluation of the patient. The veterinary technician will be able to:

1. identify husbandry issues
2. discern appropriate from inappropriate nutritional support
3. recognize normal from abnormal behavior pattern

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

	Dates	Modules	Topics	Chapter	JC and Rounds 14 x 15pts= 210	Assessment
1.	Jan 16-21	Module 1	Intro Lab Animal Med	1	Discuss factors that may predispose an animal to disease.	Study Questions 15pts Quiz 10pts
2.	Jan 22-28		Exotic Animal Facilities	2	Discuss the importance of staff education when the clinic sees exotic companion animals.	Study Questions 5pts Quiz 10pts
3.	Jan 29-Feb 4		Research Animal Facilities	3	Discuss environmental concerns in laboratory animal facilities.	Study Questions 15pts Quiz 10pts
4.	Feb 5-11	Module 2	Birds	4	Discuss the basics of client education, husbandry, and nutrition for avian species.	Study Questions 15pts Quiz 10pts
5.	Feb 12-18		Reptiles	5	Discuss the basics of client education, husbandry, and nutrition for reptiles.	Study Questions 15pts Quiz 10pts
6.	Feb 19-25		Amphibians	6	Discuss nursing care and supportive therapy techniques for an amphibian patient.	Study Questions 10 pts Quiz 10pts Ex 1 Ch.1-5 100pts

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	Dates	Modules	Topics	Chapter	JC and Rounds 14 x 15pts= 210	Assessment	
7.	Feb 26- Mar 3	Module 2	Fish	7	Discuss nursing care and supportive therapy techniques for the fish patient.	Study Questions 6 pts Quiz 10pts	
8.	Mar 4-10		Rats & Mice	8	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of rats and mice.	Study Questions 15 pts Quiz 10pts	
9	Mar 11-17		Spring Break				
10.	Mar 18-24		Rabbits	9	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of rabbits.	Study Questions 15 pts Quiz 10pts	
11.	Mar 25- Mar 31		Guinea Pigs	10	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of guinea pigs.	Study Questions 15 pts Quiz 10pts	
12.	Apr 1-7		Ferrets	11	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of ferrets.	Study Questions 10 pts Quiz 10pts Exam 2 Ch 6-10 100pts	
13.	Apr 8-14		Gerbils & Hamsters	12	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of gerbils and hamsters.	Study Questions 15 pts Quiz 10pts	
14.	Apr 15-21		Other Species	13	List and describe uses of unique exotic pets and nontraditional animals as models for animal diseases (Choose one from text).	Study Questions 10 pts Quiz 10pts	
15.	Apr 22-28 *DOUBLE WEEK	NHP	14	Discuss routine procedures for husbandry, housing, nutrition, and enrichment of NHPs.	Study Questions 10 pts Quiz 10pts		
		Wildlife	15				

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	Dates	Modules	Topics	Chapter	JC and Rounds 14 x 15pts= 210	Assessment
					OR Identify potential zoonotic and infectious diseases in common wild animal species.	Study Questions 15 pts Quiz 10pts
16.	Apr 29- May 5		Final Exam CE DUE			Exam 3 Ch 11-15 100pts