Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Ethology, Animal Ethics, Study of Breeds and Exterior Appreciation
(G000716)

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2) Dutch seminar 15.0 h

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 8.0 Study time 240 h Contact hrs 75.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
Moons, Christel DI07 lecturer-in-charge
Van Soom, Ann DI08 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019 credits offering
Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Medicine 8 A

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
- Ethology, Animal Handling, Ethics
- Domestic animals, Breeds, Exterior

Position of the course
- The section Ethology and Animal Ethics teaches students fundamental knowledge about ethological concepts and learning theory. In addition, the basics of handling different animal species are covered. Finally, students obtain insight in ethical reasoning on owning and using animals.
- The section Study of Breeds and Exterior Appreciation of Domestic Animals can, in light of the general biology of highly evolved animal species, be considered as an extension to zoology, but only focusing on domestic animals. It is an introduction to the most important animal species and breeds of importance for a veterinarian, and to the different aspects of the exterior of domestic animals.

Contents
- The course consists of two separate sections, Ethology and Animal Ethics on the one hand, and Study of Breeds and Exterior Appreciation of Domestic Animals on the other hand.
- The section Ethology and Animal Ethics consists of a theoretical part and a part with exercises. THEORY (A) First, an introduction to ethology is given. The following topics are covered: ontogeny of behaviour (including epigeny: early experience, imprinting, socialisation), learning processes, conflict and abnormal behaviour / stress, rhythms, social systems, domestication, observation and recording techniques. Sensory systems and communication in dog, cat and horse are also discussed, as preparation for the exercises and (in 2 Ba) the skills labs. Next, the ethics of owning and using animals is discussed, emphasizing the context of laboratory animals. EXERCISES (B) The exercises consist of applications of theoretical concepts and form the basis for ethologically sound handling techniques applied to varous species. For this purpose, it is a requirement to be able to observe behaviour and to interpret it correctly. This training will occur mostly during interactive discussions, a.o. using audiovisual material. During the exercises the body language of dog, cat and horse is reviewed.
- During the section Study of Breeds and Exterior Appreciation of Domestic Animals, some attention is paid to evolution, domestication and the selection of domestic animals, and to their consequences on physiological and morphological development and behaviour. Domestication induced a rich variation among domestic

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animals, which led to ethnographic groups of breeds. The latter show a variety of characteristics that are interesting to humans, both in the fields of production and formalism. The external appearance of the most important breeds is discussed and visualized by photographs. Moreover, a lot of different exterior identification marks are studied in both production animals and companion and hobby animals (mainly horse, cattle, sheep, goat, pig, rabbit, cat, dog, different species of poultry). All this is placed in the broad context of the utilization and the management of domestic animals.

Initial competences

Final competences
1. To analyse animal behaviour at the causal, structural and functional level.
2. To have insight in the scientific and ethical approach to owning and using animals.
3. To understand the body language of animal species that have been discussed during class.
4. To be able to analyse examples of animal handling, identifying good and bad aspects.
5. To independently gather scientific information, critically synthesize and analyse it.
6. To perform scientific observations and interpret and comment on them critically.
7. To independently and critically analyse a simple problem, assess and solve it.
8. To elaborate on and/or defend a scientific line of reasoning.
9. To function within a team during group work and to contribute constructively to the task.
10. To be aware of the ethical and societal issues of keeping, using and interacting with animals.
11. To visually recognize the most important breeds and to understand the reasons for their existence.
12. To define, recognize and interpret external morphological characteristics.
13. To situate the acquired knowledge within a broader societal context.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods
Lecture, seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods
Formal lectures, lavishly illustrated with photographs. Group work and demonstrations are a part of the exercises for the section of Ethology and Animal Ethics.

Learning materials and price
Syllabus and PowerPoint course slides. Slides from the lectures can be consulted via Minerva or will be distributed during class. For the section Animal Ethics, the book "Dieren Welzijn" is used (ISBN 978-90-209-6323-6). Additional course material is made available free of charge in the libraries and electronic databases of Ghent University.

References
For the section Ethology and Animal Ethics, useful publications are mentioned throughout the syllabus and/or made available via Minerva.

Course content-related study coaching
No formal tutoring is provided for this course. Students are free to ask the lecturer for further explanations and discussions at any time after the formal lectures (e-mail, conversation in person).

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions, written examination with multiple choice questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions, written examination with multiple choice questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Assignment, peer assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

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Extra information on the examination methods

- For the section Ethology and Animal Ethics: end-of-term assessment for (A) using 30 multiple choice questions (3 answer options, of which 1 is correct), continuous assessment for (B) via an assignment that is the result of group work. The grade for the group work assignment will be adapted, if necessary, for an individual member of the group according to the results of the peer evaluation.
- The part of the exam concerning Study of Breeds and Exterior Appreciation of Domestic Animals is comprised of two complementary parts: on the one hand recognition of breeds and giving relevant information from projected slides, on the other hand answering theoretical questions.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Both the section Ethology and Animal Ethics and the section Study of Breeds and Exterior Appreciation of Domestic Animals represent 50 % of the final grade.
- When a student does not participate in the evaluation of one or both sections, or if the student has a score of less than 8 out of 20 for either of the sections, the student cannot pass the entire course. Should the final grade be 10 or more out of 20, then this grade will be reduced to the highest non-passing grade (9 out of 20).
- For the section Ethology and Animal Ethics the group work assignment counts for 10% of the points.
- Within the section Study of Breeds and Exterior Appreciation of Domestic Animals, the slides count for 1/3 of the points and the theory for 2/3 of the points.