

PH8004: ANIMAL WELFARE AND RESEARCH ETHICS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Animal Welfare and Research Ethics

Subject Code

PH - Infectious Diseases and Public Health

Course Number

8004

Academic Unit

Infectious Diseases and Public Health (PH)

College/School

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (VM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

2

Level

R8 - Research Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Part II Course Details

Abstract

By the end of this course, students will have learnt the fundamentals of animal welfare science, research ethics and integrity, and how they are related to one another. Students will understand why ethical oversight of research is needed, and how ethical review is linked to higher research standards. Students will understand that provision for an animal's welfare must be determined on a species-specific basis and be able to describe these needs within the common animal welfare terminology (e.g., Five Freedoms, Five Domains). They will have a good understanding of how animal welfare status is assessed. They will have gained an understanding of typical problems associated with a range of animals, including examples from laboratory rodents, fish (laboratory and farm), production (farm) animals, as well as zoo and exotic animals. They will also learn about how animal pain is assessed, and the most humane methods of euthanasia and slaughter.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain basic concepts of research ethics and integrity	25	x	x	x
2	Explain basic concepts of animal welfare across a range of species	25	x	x	x
3	Identify the principles of animal welfare science and describe how concepts such as sentience, ethics, behaviour, pain, husbandry, and management relate to the welfare of animals	25	x	x	x
4	Discuss the importance of stakeholders in identifying, managing, and protecting animal welfare, with particular attention given to research ethics, Five Freedoms, Five Domains	25	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)	
1	Lectures	Students will attend lectures covering the designed learning contents for the course	1, 2, 3, 4	22 hours
2	Tutorial	Students will participate in tutorials designed for the demonstration of research ethics and animal welfare assessment	1, 2, 3, 4	4 hours

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Oral Presentation (interface of ethics and animal welfare): Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of ethics and animal welfare science, welfare assessment, and how these relate to research practices, animal management, animal behaviour, and effectively present this knowledge in oral presentation form.	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Oral Presentation

Criterion

Demonstrates knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in oral presentation form.

Excellent

Excellent (A+, A, A-).

Demonstrates excellent knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in oral presentation form.

Good

Good (B+, B, B-).

Demonstrates good knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in oral presentation form.

Fair

Fair (C+, C, C-).

Demonstrates fair knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in oral presentation form.

Marginal

Marginal (D).

Demonstrates marginal knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in oral presentation form.

Failure

Failure (F).

Demonstrates a lack of knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and fails to effectively communicate them in oral presentation form.

Assessment Task

Final Exam

Criterion

Demonstrates knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in written form.

Excellent

Excellent (A+, A, A-).

Demonstrates excellent knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in written form.

Good

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrates good knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in written form.

Fair

Fair (C+, C, C-).

Demonstrates fair knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in written form.

Marginal

Marginal (D).

Demonstrates marginal knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and effectively communicate them in written form.

Failure

Failure (F).

Demonstrates a lack of knowledge of research ethics, animal ethics and welfare, how these concepts are related, and fails to effectively communicate them in written form.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

animal ethics, animal sentience, animal welfare science, fish welfare, humane euthanasia, humane slaughter, laboratory animal welfare, animal pain assessment, production (farm) animal welfare, research ethics, research integrity, welfare assessment, zoo and exotic animal welfare

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Reading materials on current topics provided on the Course Canvas Discussion section

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Dawkins MS. 2021. The science of animal welfare understanding what animals want. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2	World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Animal Welfare. https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/
3	Mellor DJ, Beusoleil NJ. 2015. Extending the Five Domains model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states. <i>Animal Welfare</i> 24, 241-253.
4	Parker MO, McElligott AG. 2023. Ethical evolutions: navigating the future of animal behaviour and welfare research. <i>Research Ethics</i> 19, 369-372.