

VCS5007: EXOTIC ANIMAL CLINICAL MEDICINE

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Exotic Animal Clinical Medicine

Subject Code

VCS - Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Course Number

5007

Academic Unit

Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS)

College/School

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

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course will provide approaches to the application of the principles of veterinary clinical medicine and clinical practice to the animal species more commonly kept as exotic pets in institutional or domestic situations, and species commonly

encountered in the context of zoos and aquaria. Taxonomic groups covered in this course will include mammals, birds and reptiles. Topics covered include principles and acceptable standards of welfare, appropriate methods of handling, physical and chemical restraint, collection of case histories, clinical examination, diagnostic techniques including imaging and sample collection, clinical presentation and clinicopathological findings of common clinical conditions, clinical disease management including therapeutics.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the roles of veterinarians in exotic animal management, welfare and rehabilitation and how veterinarians work with other professionals and stakeholders in this sector.		x	x	x
2	Demonstrate appropriate handling, as well as physical and chemical restraint methods to enable adequate and safe physical examination, diagnostic investigations, clinical assessment and management of common diseases for various exotic species.		x	x	x
3	Interpret clinical histories, physical examination findings and the results of diagnostic tests to be able to diagnose common disease conditions and construct medical and/or surgical therapeutic plans for species commonly kept as exotic pets, or in zoos, aviaries or aquaria.		x	x	x
4	Recognize the indications for different diagnostic modalities and their application for diagnosis of common diseases of exotic species.		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	Lectures will provide some basic information but also specific clinical case-scenarios to improve evidence-based practise and clinical skills.	1, 2, 3, 4	30 hours in total

2	Case Discussions and Tutorials	Case discussions will allow participants to work through real-life clinical cases, while tutorials provide insights into important clinical techniques and/or allow reflection and analysis on relevant clinical case material.	1, 2, 3, 4	9 hours in total
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Continuous Assessment (%)

0

Examination (%)

100

Examination Duration (Hours)

1.5

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Final Examination

Criterion

Integrate the previous clinical veterinary knowledge and course content on exotic animal medicine to establish a cognitive framework applicable to particular disease situations.

Discuss and demonstrate correct use of diagnostic equipment and methodologies in order to provide optimal and realistic workup options.

Describe the mechanisms of action, dosage and clinical use of common pharmacological agents used in exotic animal medicine, in order to select and administer suitable agents to ensure patient welfare and safety and discuss options to deal with adverse effects that may arise.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent in understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good in understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Has basic understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Marginal (D)

Has minimal understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Failure (F)

Has poor to absent understanding and ability to develop and explain differential diagnoses, definitive diagnoses, treatment options, and treatment plans.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Zoos, aviaries, aquaria, exotic pets, species, wildlife rescues, mammals, birds, reptiles, husbandry, management, animal welfare, restraint, handling, imaging, surgery, medicine, case history, clinical examination, differential diagnosis, clinical diagnosis, definitive diagnosis, sample collection, therapy, drugs, preventative medicine

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Quesenberry K., Mans C, Orcutt C, Carpenter JW. (2020). Ferrets, Rabbits, and Rodents: Clinical Medicine and Surgery, 4th ed.
2	Doneley, B. (2010). Avian Medicine and Surgery in Practice. CRC Press, Baton Rouge.
3	Miller, R. and Fowler, M. (2015). Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine. Elsevier, St Louis.
4	Mitchell, M. and Tully, T. (2009). Manual of Exotic Pet Practice. Elsevier, St Louis.
5	Divers SJ and Stahl SJ. Mader's Reptile and Amphibian Medicine and Surgery, 3rd ed. Elsevier, 2019.