

VM1001: PRE-EMS ANIMAL HANDLING SKILLS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills

Subject Code

VM - Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

Course Number

1001

Academic Unit

Infectious Diseases and Public Health (PH)

College/School

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

Course Duration

Non-standard Duration

Other Course Duration

2 weeks

Credit Units

0

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

a. Description

Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills will be taught in an intensive two-week period commencing immediately after the end of Semester B examinations. It will be followed by one clear week before any scheduled Husbandry EMS begins to allow time for remediation and reassessment should any students be judged inadequate in their interactions with some species. Students will be in small groups under close supervision by a Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences staff member and the activities will take place on a farm or in a kennel, cattery, or stables that has the standard handling facilities for the particular species. This will be followed by a practical animal handling examination in the form of directly observed procedure where students are observed by a suitably qualified and experienced assessor.

Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills will have been preceded by Livestock Husbandry and in that course, sheep handling and the sheep industry more generally will be covered.

The pattern of teaching and learning will be the same for each species. There will be a recap presentation by the staff member about indicators of the temperament of the particular species followed by the students' assessment of the temperament and behaviour of the animals presented for the class. This is followed by a revision of the animal handling activities which will be demonstrated by the staff member and practiced by each student several times. Animal handling competency will be assessed by means of a Practical Examination in which students are expected to demonstrate they can competently handle and restrain cattle, horses, dogs, and cats to pass. There will be an opportunity in the week following for remedial teaching, learning, and assessment.

One day of the two-week period will be an interactive classroom-based session focusing on professional development, including essential communication skills for the workplace.

b. Skills requirements

PRE-EMS CATTLE HANDLING SKILLS	PRE-EMS HORSE HANDLING SKILLS	PRE-EMS DOG HANDLING SKILLS	PRE-EMS CAT HANDLING SKILLS
Approaching cattle in barn	Approaching a horse safely	Approaching and greeting a dog	Approaching and greeting a cat
Assessment of flight distance	Assessment of temperament	Assessment of temperament	Assessment of temperament
Assessment of temperament	Place a head collar on a horse	Lifting a large dog (2 people)	Removing a cat from a carrier
Moving cattle to new enclosure	Lead a horse	Lifting a small dog (1 person)	Lifting and carrying a cat
Restraining using ropes/halter	Tying up using a quick release knot	Apply muzzle and bandage muzzle	Restrain and administer oral medication
Use of cattle crush	Grooming a horse	Restraint for blood sampling (cephalic, jugular)	Restraint for blood sampling (cephalic, jugular)
Use of nose pliers/nose rings	Pick up, clean, examine front & rear hooves	Restraint for physical examination (sternal, standing)	Restraint for physical examination
Casting a cow	Rugging a horse	Turning a dog into lateral recumbency - two person	Wrapping in a towel for restraint
	Apply stable bandage	Building and placing a buster/E-collar	Placing a cat into a cage/carrier
	Apply bridle		Building and placing a Buster/E-collar
	Restraint of horse with twitch		

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Handle and restrain cattle in a competent, safe, and ethical manner		x	x	x

2	Handle and restrain horses in a competent, safe, and ethical manner		x	x	x
3	Handle and restrain dogs in a competent, safe, and ethical manner		x	x	x
4	Handle and restrain cats in a competent, safe, and ethical manner		x	x	x
5	Describe professional behavior expected within a husbandry workplace, and demonstrate appropriate workplace communication skills		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	Students will engage in a training session on how to properly handle and restrain cattle	Pre-EMS Cattle handling skills	1	
2	Students will engage in a training session on how to properly handle and restrain horses	Pre-EMS Horse handling skills	2	
3	Students will engage in a training session on how to properly handle and restrain dogs	Pre-EMS Dog handling skills	3	
4	Students will engage in a training session on how to properly handle and restrain cats	Pre-EMS Cat handling skills	4	
5	Students will engage in an interactive classroom tutorial on professional behavior and communication	Interactive tutorial	5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Students will handle and restrain animals under supervision and will be observed and assessed by their instructor on their performance	1, 2, 3, 4	80	*Must pass	No
2	Students will write a reflective assignment based on their experiences during the course (in 500 words)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	*Must pass	No
3	Students will achieve 100% completion of records for animal handling skills	1, 2, 3, 4	10	*Must pass	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

Students are required to have demonstrated competency in all Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills and pass the Practical Examination (directly observed procedure). Students with an unsatisfactory performance will be eligible for one remediation and resit assessment session.

Students are required to have achieved 100% completion for all animal handling skills recorded in the specified manner/system before the end of the course.

Students are also required to complete a written reflective assignment to reflect on their animal handling abilities and workplace communication including future goal setting for further skills development. This will be marked according to the rubric below.

A PASS grade will be awarded for satisfactory performance of all assessment tasks/activities. Unsatisfactory performance will constitute an overall FAIL grade for the course. Students must pass this course before taking part in husbandry EMS placements.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Additional Information for AR****Reflective Assignment**

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Content of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reflection is thorough and includes future goal setting regarding animal handling skills development or communication skills · Makes meaningful connections to important ideas covered during the BVM Year 1 Curriculum related to animal handling or professional development · Is supported with relevant details through use of sensory language, narrative accounts, and personal experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Little or no reflection · Little or no connection to important ideas covered during the BVM Year 1 Curriculum related to animal handling or professional development · Little or no support with relevant details
Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reflection reveals feelings and thoughts through presentation of the experience · Is thoughtful, convincing, insightful, and explanatory · Analyzes the experience by looking at more than one angle · Makes meaningful and practical suggestions for improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Little or no evidence of feelings or presentation of the experience · Little or no explanations given · Little or no analysis · Little or no suggestions for improvement
Writing strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Uses a variety of writing strategies to make the reflection clear to the reader such as using specific details, comparing, contrasting, naming, describing, reviewing prior knowledge, and explaining possibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Little or no evidence of using multiple writing strategies

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

EMS, Pre-EMS, Extra-Mural Studies, Animal Handling, Animal Skills

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil