NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

AH 112: ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND RESTRAINT – 2.5 (2-0-2) 64 Hours for 16 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:
Rhonda Shaw

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AS 137

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OFFICE HOURS:
Contact Instructor for Appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
Normal animal behaviour and specific behaviour problems of different species and breeds will be covered. Students will learn about human-animal bonding and basic physiological requirements of animals. The ability to handle and restrain small and large animals is taught with emphasis on safety for patient and handler. Current Behaviour and Restraint modification guidelines and procedures will be discussed.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:
Must be registered in the NWP Veterinary Technology Diploma Program

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Computer for in class quizzes
- Sheldon, *Animal Restraint for Veterinary Professionals, 3nd edition,* Elsevier, 2024

- Small and Large Animal Behaviour and Restraint Course Pack
- Register for Fear Free Veterinary Professional Certification Program – Canine & Feline – fee included with animal nursing kit purchased

OPTIONAL TEXT:

- Yin, *Low Stress Handling Restraint and Behavior,* Cattledog, 2009

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Lab, Lecture, Animal Care and Online Fear Free Course

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be capable of understanding and identifying normal behaviour/common undesirable behaviours/foundation training utilized to increase desirable behaviours and practice proper animal handling and restraint for various species.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

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EVALUATIONS:

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

Grades for this course will be assigned as a percentage

	EXAMINATIONS	Mark Distribution
	A. Quizzes	11%
	B. Fear Free Level 1 Course	15%
	C. Theory Written Final Exam	25%
	D. Lab Written Final Exam	14%
	E. Large Animal Evaluation	15%
	F. Lab Prep and Clean-Up	5%
	G. Animal Care Related Duties	15%
		100%

A passing grade for this course is 60% and a minimum of 70% must be obtained in the animal care related portion of the course to pass AH112.

No supplemental final exam option for this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Refer to Fall Semester Schedules handed out on Orientation Day

- **The Human-Animal Relationship**
  - Define various terms
  - Describe and discuss the four reasons animal behaviour is studied in veterinary medicine
  - List and describe the purposes of animals in society
  - Discuss domesticated animals
- **Canine Behaviour**
  - Define various terms
  - Describe and discuss the development of canine behaviour
  - Describe and explain visual, auditory and olfactory communication in the canine
  - Describe sleep patterns
  - Describe and explain various types of canine aggression and predisposing factors
  - Discuss canine aggression intervention techniques
  - Describe and explain canine learning styles/techniques
  - Discuss common behaviour problems and modification techniques
- **Feline Behaviour**
  - Define various terms
  - Describe and discuss developmental stages of feline behaviour
  - Describe and discuss auditory, visual and olfactory communication in the feline
  - Describe sleeping patterns
  - Describe and explain various types of feline aggression and predisposing factors
  - Discuss aggression intervention techniques
  - List feline learning patterns
  - Describe and discuss digestive factors effecting food intake of the feline
  - Describe and discuss different causes and symptoms of house soiling and intervention techniques
  - Discuss common behaviour problems and modification techniques

- **Equine Behaviour**
  - Define various terms

- Describe and discuss the development of equine behaviour
- Define and explain auditory, visual and olfactory equine communication
- Describe sleep patterns
- Describe and discuss causes and types of aggression
- Discuss equine aggression intervention techniques
- Identify and explain common behaviour problems and owner intervention techniques

- **Ruminant Behaviour**
  - Define various terms
  - Describe and discuss development of common ruminants
  - Describe sleep patterns
  - Describe and explain auditory, visual and olfactory communication in the caprine, ovine and bovine species
  - List ruminant learning patterns
- **Porcine Behaviour**
  - Define various terms
  - Describe and discuss the development of porcine behaviour
  - Describe and discuss swine communication
  - Describe sleep patterns
  - Describe and discuss porcine aggression and intervention techniques
  - List porcine learning patterns

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Enrolment at NWP assumes that the student will become a responsible citizen of the Polytechnic Institute. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, take pride in and assist in the maintenance and preservation of Institute property, and assume responsibility for his/her education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting instructor expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

For your safety, the safety of others and the safety of the animals there will be a zero tolerance for anybody showing up for lab sessions, animal care rotations or lectures/guest speakers, under the influence of alcohol or other medication that may cause physical impairment or

disruptive behaviour. Sessions missed for the above reasons will be considered unexcused with deductions.

Animal care related duties refer to the provision of essential care for program dogs (walking, behaviour modification / observation and documentation). Students are required to participate based on a rotation schedule which will include weekends and holidays. Not doing so according to set guidelines will result in deductions. Schedule changes are limited and must be approved by the instructor prior to the scheduled time. See K9 Socialization / Walking Rotation Contract and information sheet for specific guidelines and deductions.

Students are expected to show up prepared for lab. This includes, but is not limited to appropriate clothing, equipment and knowledge (assigned readings). Failure to do so will result in student dismissal from lab to acquire what is necessary and a deduction in the lab prep portion.

Attendance is required to ensure student success and is mandatory in all scheduled lab, exam, guest speaker or animal care duty rotations. Absences must be excused by the instructor **prior** to the occurrence or **ASAP** after the occurrence with an acceptable third party written note (e.g. doctor's note is acceptable and working at another job would be an unexcused absence) for animal care etc. Exceptions to this are at the discretion of the instructor. A 5% deduction off the **overall** course mark will occur for **each** unexcused absence from a lab or guest speaker. A 5% deduction off the animal care related duty portion will occur for **each** unexcused absence from animal care related duties. 3 or more unexcused absences consecutive or otherwise, in animal care related duties will result in an **automatic failure of AH 112**.

Missed lecture, lab or guest speaker are not available for make-up. Missed lecture / lab assignments, exams and reports will result in a 0% grade (without an excused absence). Having an excused absence for missing a lecture, lab, guest speaker or exam does not change the students responsibility to acquire the information given, nor their obligation to complete required assignments / exams by the date required.

No electronic devices are to be used during exams / evaluations; having an electronic device present at these times will result in dismissal from class and an automatic 0% grade for exam or evaluation.

Refer to the NWP Veterinary Technology Student Competency Checklist book for more information on pass requirements and deductions for the AHT Program.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

NWP servers may be monitored. Student accounts are visible via ABTutor and student activity on NWP networks may be monitored during supervised exams and/or anytime students are on NWP networks. The collection of and access to the personal information listed above as permitted by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

Any student wishing to see a marked quiz or grades, can make an appointment with the instructor to review. Final exams are not available for review.