

**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY
COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026**

AH 243 Laboratory and Exotic Animals– 1.5 (1.5-0-1) 40 Hours for 8 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 Christy Barlund	PHONE:	780-835-6702 780-835-6701
OFFICE:	FAS137 FAS136	E-MAIL:	rshaw@nwpolytech.ca cbarlund@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Contact instructor for appointment, or as posted		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Students will learn basic husbandry, common nursing care procedures and diseases of rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles and other exotic animals. Human health implications of handling and working with these animals will be discussed. Students will gain knowledge of regulations and protocols involved in working with laboratory and exotic animals. Discussion of Canadian Council on Animal Care Regulations is included.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

Must be registered in the NWP Veterinary Technology Diploma Program.

AH112

AH141

AH172

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Sheldon, *Animal Restraint for Veterinary Professionals*, Elsevier, 3rd edition, 2024

Long Sleeve Lab Coat, Closed Toe Shoes, Hair Tie, Short Nails - for live animal labs

OPTIONAL TEXT:

Bonnie Ballard and Ryan Cheek, *Exotic Animal Medicine for the Veterinary Technician*, Blackwell, 2016, 3rd edition

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Lab / Lecture / Guest Speaker (when possible)

Quizzes and final exams will be supervised and in-person. Students must have a computer.

Technological support is available through HelpDesk@nwpolytech.ca

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**Legislation and Regulation of Animal Research**

Upon successful completion of this Learning Outcome Guide, you will be able to describe legislations and regulations of animal research.

Rodents

Upon successful completion of this Learning Outcome Guide, you will be able to discuss basic husbandry, common nursing care and diseases of rodents.

Guinea Pigs

Upon successful completion of this Learning Outcome Guide, you will be able to discuss basic husbandry, common nursing care and diseases of guinea pigs.

Rabbits

Upon successful completion of this Learning Outcome Guide, you will be able to discuss basic husbandry, common nursing care and diseases of rabbits.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Upon successful completion of this Learning Outcome Guide, you will be able to discuss basic husbandry, common nursing care and diseases of reptiles and amphibians.

Avian

Upon successful completion of this Learning Outcome Guide, you will be able to discuss basic husbandry, common nursing care and diseases of birds.

Non-Human Primates

Upon successful completion of this Learning Outcome Guide, you will be able to discuss basic husbandry, common nursing care and diseases of non-human primates.

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.transferralberta.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**

EVALUATIONS:

EXAMINATIONS		Mark Distribution
A. Quizzes		30%
B. Housing Project		15%
C. CCAC Assignment		5%
D. Theory Final Exam		30%
E. Lab Final Exam		20%
		100%

* A minimum of 60% must be obtained to successfully pass AH 243

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

See course objectives for tentative timeline. Course schedules are as posted.

Enrolment at NWP assumes that the student will become a responsible citizen of the 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 their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting instructor expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

Veterinary Technology Program Attendance & Conduct Summary

- **Zero Tolerance for Impairment:** Attending labs, exams/quizzes, lectures, or guest speaker events under the influence of alcohol or impairing substances (including certain medications) is strictly prohibited. Violations result in unexcused absences and a mark of zero.
- **Mandatory Attendance:** Attendance is required for all exams, guest speakers and labs. Arriving late to labs, lectures, quizzes/exams will be considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences (at the instructor's discretion) result in:
 - **5% deduction** from the final course grade (labs/guest speakers)
- **Absence Approval:** Absences must be approved in advance or as soon as possible afterward with valid written documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Employment conflicts are not considered valid excuses.
- **Make-Up Policy:** Labs, lectures, and guest speakers cannot be made up. Missed assessments due to unexcused absences receive a grade of zero. Excused absences do not exempt students from required work or deadlines.
- **Exam Conduct:** No electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, headphones, tablets etc) are permitted during exams or evaluations. Having one present will result in immediate dismissal and a grade of 0%.
- **Further Guidelines:**
 - Spelling errors in exams/quizzes, assignments and medical records will result in a 0.5% deduction for each occurrence.
 - All handwritten materials that are submitted to the instructor must be using blue or black pen, no white out and using appropriate medical corrections.

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*.

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

Regular attendance is recommended to ensure student success. Attendance is mandatory for labs, housing assignment day, guest speakers and exotics sanitation rotations. A 5% deduction, for each incidence, off final mark will occur if a student has an unexcused absence from a lab, housing assignment day, guest speaker or sanitation rotation.

Lab competencies must be submitted within 24 hours of lab completion, failure to submit competencies within 24 hours will result in deductions off the final course mark for AH 243. Deductions will occur off final course mark for inadequate lab prep (e.g. videos assigned etc.) and/or cleanup.