

**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY**

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

AH 246 Animal Nursing I– 1.5 (1.5-0-1.5) 48 Hours for 16 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) 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:	Kyla Dahms	PHONE:	780-835-6707
	Rhonda Shaw		780-835-6702
	Dr. Mizzi		780-835-6617
	Kristy Honing		780-835-6779
OFFICE:	FAS 141	E-MAIL:	kdahms@nwpolytech.ca
	FAS 137		rshaw@nwpolytech.ca
	FAS 133		cmizzi@nwpolytech.ca
	FAS 149A		khoning@nwpolytech.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Kyla – See posted schedule or contact for appointment

Rhonda – Contact for appointment

Dr.Mizzi – contact for appointment

Kristy Honing-contact for appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Proper identification, use, care and maintenance of all equipment is emphasized. Basic grooming procedures, hoof, nail, ear and eye conditions and care are taught. Students will learn about physical therapy, bandaging, splinting, casting, and wound healing. Recognition and treatment of complications of improper techniques are covered.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

- Must be registered in the NWP Veterinary Technology Program



- AH112, AH141, AH145, AH172, AH173 and AH174
- Must be an Active ABVMA Student Member in good standing

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Student Handouts will be provided
- ***McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians***, Ninth or tenth Edition
- ***Animal Restraint for Veterinary Professionals***, Second Edition
- *Optional: Mosby's Veterinary PDQ*
- ***Computer/Tablet or device with stable internet and video chat capabilities.***

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Quizzes, Midterm and final exams will occur in-person. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@nwpolytech.ca.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. Practical Veterinary Calculations. Upon completion of this assignment students will:

- Demonstrate proper calculations learned in AH 173 Applied Mathematics.

B. Sanitation and Disinfection. Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Define terms related to sanitation and disinfection.
- Discuss what makes a disinfectant effective.
- List and discuss the disinfecting agents.
- Discuss the methods used to prevent disease transmission.

C. Physical Exam (PE), Temperature Pulse Respiration (TPR), Asymmetry; Intermuscular (IM) & Subcutaneous injections (SQ). Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Discuss and demonstrate how to obtain a PE, TPR; perform asymmetry evaluations on canine, feline and porcine patients.
- Discuss and Demonstrate proper restraint of the porcine patient.
- Demonstrate proper restraint learned in AH 112 of the canine and feline patient for IM/SQ/IV (intravenous) injections.
- Demonstrate proper technique when giving IM/SQ injections.
- Accurately maintain medical records.

D. Ear and anal glands. Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Describe otitis externa, otitis media & otitis interna in detail.
- Describe what an aural hematoma is and how to treat it.



- Describe cleaning and flushing of the ear on a canine and feline patient.
- Describe in detail anal glands an expression on the canine and feline patient.
- Describe an enema as it relates to veterinary medicine.

E. Eyes. Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Define terms related to ophthalmology.
- Explain, in detail, ophthalmic examinations including:
 - ❖ Physical restraint.
 - ❖ Patient history.
 - ❖ Patient observation.
- List & describe instruments used for ocular & otic examination.
- Describe how to perform ophthalmic examination on the canine and feline patient.
- Describe how to perform fluorescein staining of the eye of a canine and feline patient.
- Describe how to perform a Schirmer Tear Test on a canine or feline patient.
- Describe how to administer eye drops and ointments into the eye of a canine and feline patient.
- Describe common ocular disorders.

F. Wound Management. Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Describe the classifications of wounds and phases of wound healing.
- List the categories of wounds.
- Describe how wounds are treated.
- Describe in detail how to perform various bandages that are done in veterinary medicine on the canine, feline and equine patient.

G. Rehabilitation. Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Describe rehabilitation.
- Describe the modalities involved in rehabilitation.

H. Grooming & Nail/hoof care. Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to:

- Describe basic nail and hoof care.
- Summarize basic grooming and bathing of animals

I. Vaccinations. Students will be expected to explain how to administer vaccinations on canine, feline and demonstrate on bovine patients.

J. Hoof Trimming: Upon completion of this lab the student will be able to describe proper hoof care for cattle and the tools used to do so.

K. Equine Bandaging: Upon completion of this lab the student will be able to explain and demonstrate proper bandaging techniques on the equine patient.

L. Advanced Equine Handling: Upon completion of this lab the student will be able to explain and demonstrate various equine handling procedures.

M. Cattle Vaccinations: Upon completion of this lab the student will be able to demonstrate proper cattle vaccination technique.

N. Calving/Lambing Rotation: At the end of this rotation the student will be able to assist with calving and lambing and the processing of newborn lambs and calves. Students will be expected to complete shifts in the calving and lambing barn. Groups will be on a rotating schedule to be posted.

O. Dog Walking/Sanitation Rotation: Students will be expected to complete dog walking and sanitation rotations as part of their sanitation and animal care mark. See additional information below for further details. Rotation schedule to be posted.

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.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:

A minimum of 80% is required in the animal care related portion of the course (sanitation, dog walking, calving and lambing), as well as 80% on the final practical evaluation in order to successfully pass this course.

Deductions for AH 246 are based on the below deduction guideline, any deductions that accumulate throughout this course will be taken off the final grade achieved in AH 246.

Pass Requirements and Deductions for Veterinary Technology Program
Another copy of this table is located in your competency checklist booklet

Reason	Deduction off final mark.
Absent from Lab with no notification (no valid excuse).	5% first offence, 10% for second and following offences.
Excused from Lab (attitude, affected judgment, etc)	5-10%
Breach of Code of Conduct or Academic Guidelines	1-5% or incomplete for the course
Sanitation Lapse	0.5%-1% per lapse in procedure
Sanitation no show (Outside of Clinic)	5% per sanitation session
Missed Dog walking shift	5% per shift
Inappropriate Attire	0.5%
Late for lab less than 15 minutes	1%
Late for lab 15-45 minutes	5% partial day increase to 10% after 1pm
Medical record not completed	2%
Medical record completed improperly	0.5%
Log books not completed	2%
Poor attitude (if not leading to being excused)	3%
Inappropriate communication	3%
Failure to prep patient for next day	10%
Feeding of animal for surgery that day	5%
This is not a limiting list. Additional deductions may be possible and are at the discretion of the supervisor.	0.5-5%
Missed food/water/litter/kennel sanitation	5%
Missed Treatment, lost keys (not found by end of rotation)	3%
Unprepared for lab (worksheets, workstations, required readings, animal prep)	1-3%
Inappropriate behaviour or care resulting in unethical treatment of animal(s) (physical abuse, neglect of animal husbandry, etc).	Incomplete in course

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

Mark Distribution

A. Lecture/Lab Assignments	10%
B. Sanitation and animal care	10%
Calving and Lambing	
Dog walking	
Sanitation	
C. Lecture/Lab Quizzes	20%
D. Lecture Midterm	15%
E. Lab Final Exam	15%
F. Lecture Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

*A minimum of 60% must be obtained in order to successfully pass AH 246.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

See course objectives for tentative timeline.

Course schedules are 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*.

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

For your safety, the safety of others and the safety of the animals there will be zero tolerance of anyone showing up for the laboratory sessions under the influence of alcohol or other medications which may cause physical impairment or disruptive behaviour. Labs or animal care sessions missed for the above reasons will also be considered as missed without a valid excuse and result in up to 10% deduction of final mark for every instance.

If a student wishes to reschedule attendance to a lab or animal care session (i.e. join another group), they must seek permission from the instructor prior to the event.

Having a valid reason does not change the student's responsibility to acquire the information assigned during the lab or lecture, nor their obligation to finish required assignments or achieve competencies practiced.

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.

Animal care related duties refer to the provision of essential care for program dogs, cats bovines and equines (sanitation, walking, behaviour modification / observation calving and lambing 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 schedule time. See K9 Socialization / Walking Rotation Contract, Sanitation Contract and Calving/Lambing Contract information sheets for specific guidelines and deductions.

Attendance is required to ensure student success and is mandatory in all scheduled lab, exam, or animal care duty rotations. Absences must be excused by the instructor **prior** to the occurrence or as soon as possible after the occurrence with an acceptable third party written note (e.g. doctor's note). Exceptions to this are at the discretion of the instructor. Unexcused absences including but not limited to: late arrivals, missing due to work or other activities/events in your control. A 5% deduction off the **overall** course mark will occur for **each** unexcused absence from a lab. 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 fail of AH 246.

Any student wishing to see a marked quiz or midterm must make an appointment with the instructor to view or go over.