PG ABT 2026-2028

PRELIMINARY ECTS Animal Behaviour Technician

Course programme	Odisee Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare Programme **Postgraduate course Animal Behaviour Technician**
Course module title	**PG CABW – ABT M3 - The welfare of companion animals**
Level of course module	• Postgraduate level 6
Year of study module is delivered	• Academic year 2026-2027
Number of ECTS credits allocated to the module	• 4 credits = appr. 100 to 120 study hours
Summary of key learning outcomes of the module	1. An in-depth understanding of the scientific principles, essential definitions and the ethological, psychological, physiological concepts underlying the welfare of companion animals. 2. Critically appraise concepts and methods used for the evaluation of animal welfare. Evaluate the welfare and methods used to provide or optimise the welfare of companion animals (dogs and cats) in a broad range of environments.
Specific learning outcomes of the module	Students will know and understand the subjects covered in this module and be able to: 1. Articulate an understanding of the concept of animal welfare and the different underlying models. 2. Identify and critically appraise concepts, methods and welfare indicators used for the evaluation of animal welfare and their practical applications for companion animals (dogs and cats). 3. Evaluate the welfare of companion animals in a broad range of environments (including issues in the management and training of animals and occurring in clinical practice). 4. Evaluate ethical issues arising from assessment of animal welfare and propose practical solutions to professionals and non-professionals to address, alleviate and avoid welfare problems in companion animals.

Module content	• The key ethological, psychological and physiological concepts of welfare and Quality of Life (QoL). • The biology of stress. The basic principles and implications for animal welfare including: neuroendocrine, immune system responses and metabolic consequences of short term and long term stress. • Health, pain, the social and non-social environment as stressors. • Consequences of genetics, stress and experiences during early development on behaviour and temperament. • Common methods and indicators used to measure welfare of companion animals their positive aspects and limitations and how to use these practically to assess the welfare of companion animals. • Sentience and animal welfare, including: cognitive abilities, coping strategies, predictability and control, motivation and demands, feelings and emotions. Awareness, consciousness and suffering. • Welfare considerations in the management, working and training of companion animals and in clinical practice. • Welfare needs and common welfare issues in dogs, cats, small mammals and horses. • Quality of life of the behavioural patient.
Planned learning activities and teaching methods	• Distance learning consisting of: ○ Recorded lectures ○ Reading lists ○ Peer-to-peer learning activities
Assessment methods	• Formative assignment • Summative assignment • Oral exam
Essential study materials	• Course book • Course materials provided by the lecturers
Module coordinators	• Jolanda Pluijmakers (Jolanda@davalon.nl) and David Appleby (david.appleby@live.com).
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