PG ABT6 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 M4: Animal law and ethics**
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	• 3 credits = appr. 75 to 90 study hours
Summary of key learning outcomes of the module	1. Critical appraisal of the concepts of ethical thinking. An understanding of how this affects human-animal interaction, the behaviour and welfare of people and companion animals in a variety of situations. 2. Development of professional ethical thinking and decision making. Developing an understanding of the European (including UK) legislation relating to ownership and the use of animals and to the role and duties of the relevant professionals involved in the animal care sector.
Specific learning outcomes of module	• Students will know and understand the subjects covered in this module and be able to: 1. Explain the most commonly held ethical positions and how they affect the human animal bond, human animal interaction and the welfare of companion animals (dogs and cats). 2. Critically reflect and justify their own opinion and decision making regarding the use and treatment of companion animals. 3. Demonstrate an understanding of the most important legislation regarding the keeping and care of companion animals including animal abuse and the link between animal and human abuse. 4. Describe ethical and legal responsibilities and limitations of the role of owners, paraprofessionals, veterinary surgeons and animal behaviour technician, clinical animal behaviourist and veterinary behaviourists including the duties associated with the provision of advice, professional liability and client confidentiality.

	5. Understand the role of national legal and judicial processes including the relevant features of employment law, health and safety legislation and the Data Protection Act as they apply to the practice of clinical animal behaviour. 6. Identify and evaluate ethical and legal issues effectively. Decide upon actions that may be necessary for addressing ethical and legal issues related to the role of animal behaviour technician and ability to advise upon and implement guidelines. 7. The ability to advise professionals and non-professionals on ethical issues and the implementation of guidelines, taking legal obligations, safety concerns and the legal implications of providing professional advice into consideration.
Module content	• Basic concepts in ethical thinking, the historical perspective and practical application. • Anthrozoology the science studying the interaction between humans and animals and its relevance to companion animal behaviour and welfare. • The psychology of the human-animal bond and its effect on the behaviour and welfare of humans and companion animals, including: the human animal bond in historical and cultural perspective and tests and measurements to evaluate the human-animal bond. • Broken bonds, including: understanding the experience of pet relinquishment, pet loss and grief. • Animal rights and ethical guidelines relating to the use of companion animals, including: the welfare of animals used for science, food, work, assistance, sport and held as pets. The abuse and neglect of companion animals. The link between animal abuse and family violence. • European legislation in relation to the ownership and use of animals, the role and duties of the animal behaviour technician, clinical animal behaviourist, veterinary behaviourist, veterinary surgeon, paraprofessionals, owners and others within it. Including: legal implications and duties associated with the provision of advice and professional liability and client confidentiality. The implications for the animal behaviour technician their clients and others regarding employment law, health, safety and data protection legislation.

Planned learning activities and teaching methods	• Distance learning consisting of:
	  • Recorded lectures
	  • Reading lists

Assessment method	• Online MC 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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