PG VB-CAB 2026-2028

PRELIMINARY ECTS Veterinary Behaviourist

Course programme	Odisee Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare Programme **Postgraduate course Veterinary Behaviourist**
Course module title	**PG CABW – VB- M4: Anatomy and physiology and the interaction between health and behaviour**
Level of course module	• Postgraduate level 6/7
Year of study – date course module is delivered	• Academic year 2026-2027
Number of ECTS credits allocated to the module	• 9 credits = appr. 225 to 270 study hours
Summary of key learning outcome of the unit	• Understanding of the neurophysiological and neuropsychological basis of behaviour in mammals.
Specific learning outcomes of the module	• After completion of this module: 1. Students will have an understanding of the neurophysiological and neuropsychological basis of behaviour of mammals especially of dogs and cats. 2. Students will be able to describe the functional anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, the endocrine system, emotional systems, the neurophysiological and emotional basis of pain and will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how these affect behaviour. 3. Students will be able to critically evaluate the role of environmental and genetic factors in the development of the nervous system and the role of nutrition on health and behaviour. 4. Students will be able to recognize the signs of ill-health and common conditions influencing behaviour. Understand the consequences of medical components and disorders on behaviour and be familiar with the associated veterinary terminology. 5. Students will be able to identify when psychopharmacological interventions and other additional therapies are desirable in combination with behaviour modification techniques. 6. Students will be able to explain the mode of action of psychopharmacological interventions and additional

	therapies such as pheromones, nutraceuticals and herbal interventions, the rationale for their use/application and the strengths and weaknesses of each and their contra-indicators. 7. Students understand the ethics and legal position of psychopharmacological intervention. 8. Students will be able to critically evaluate issues concerning the safety, efficacy, and reliability of complementary and alternative or non-prescription or prescribed therapies or products.
Module content	• The functional anatomy, physiology and development of the nervous system and its role in mediating behaviour. • The functional anatomy and physiology of the endocrine system and its role in mediating behaviour. • The neurophysiological and emotional basis of pain. • The foundations of human and animal emotions. The anatomy, physiology of the emotional brain and its role in mediating behaviour. • The effect of the interaction between genetics and environmental influences on the development of an animal. • The role of nutrition in health and behaviour. • The mode of actions and rationale for the use/application of psychopharmacology and additional therapies and the strengths and weaknesses of each and their contra-indicators. Including nutraceuticals, herbal products, diets and pheromone therapy. • Signs of ill health and recognizing medical components that might influence the behaviour and welfare of an animal. Including being familiar with the associated veterinary terminology. • Recognizing and differentiating behaviours being indicative of having a possible medical cause from symptoms having other causes.
Planned learning activities and teaching methods	• Distance learning consisting of: ○ Recorded lectures ○ Reading lists ○ Review questions
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).
	© Odisee, 2025