

Course Code: VTT 110

Course Title: Small Animal Nursing I

Department: Allied Health

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.2 - Occupational/Technical Instruction

CIP Code: 01.8301

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 1-6-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 1

Lab: 6

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Handling, restraint, and nursing techniques in dogs and cats: emphasis on TPR; bathing; administering tablet, liquid, and injectable medications; and obtaining blood and urine specimens.

General Course Objectives

To develop skills in the areas of basic care, handling, restraint, and medical nursing techniques for the dog and cat. This course lays the foundation for the development of advanced skills covered in subsequent courses.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 099	Placement out of CCS 099	Placement out of MAT 072

Prerequisites

Concurrent enrollment in VTT 113, VTT 114, VTT 116, and VTT 119

Admission into the Veterinary Technology program

Methods of Evaluation

2-4 objective lecture exams, 1 final exam, 4-6 lecture quizzes, 2-4 written and practical lab exams, and 4-6 lab quizzes.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians, McCurnin. Current edition. ISBN 9780323722001

Manual of Clinical Procedures in the Dog and Cat, Crow. Current edition. ISBN 9781118985700

Veterinary Medical Terminology, Christenson. Current edition. ISBN 9780323612074

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Small Animal Behavior, Principles of Handling and Restraint	1. Explain why behavior problems can be life-threatening to pets. 2. Summarize the veterinary technician's role in supporting behavioral health. 3. Explain how a veterinary technician's understanding of animal behavior can create a safer environment for workers, pet owners, and pets. 4. Understand the role of animal development on animal behavior. 5. Identify and immediately triage behavior emergencies in canine and feline patients. 6. List three indications for animal restraint. 7. Describe and accurately perform methods for approaching dogs and cats before attempting restraint. 8. List actions taken to diminish stress among dogs and cats during physical examinations and hospitalization. 9. List the equipment and demonstrate the methods used in capturing and restraining both cooperative and uncooperative dogs and cats. 10. Describe and demonstrate various positions for restraining cats and dogs.	2	9	0
Obtaining a Medical History, Vital Signs, and How to Use the Stethoscope	1. Explain the role of the veterinary technician in obtaining the patient's medical history. 2. List questions commonly used to obtain a dog's or cat's medical history. 3. Describe the type of information contained in each section of the patient's medical history for dogs and cats. 4. Demonstrate how to approach the animal in a non-threatening, yet safe manner to obtain a TPR. 5. Obtain a pulse and respiratory rate and determine if the rates obtained are within the normal range for the species, age, and breed obtained from. 6. Explain and accurately perform the technique for use of a stethoscope to auscultate heart and lungs, and check for pulse deficit in the dog and cat.	1	9	0
Grooming and Bathing, Pedicures, and Anal Sacs	1. Explain why grooming and bathing are important aspects of small animal nursing care. 2. Provide general grooming for dogs and cats. 3. Explain the criteria that should be used to evaluate the hospitalized patient's overall appearance before discharging to the owner. 4. Perform a cleansing bath to dogs. 5. Describe how to safely use a cage dryer. 6. List the steps and minimum personal protective equipment needed to administer a medicated bath or dip. 7. Explain how to safely use shampoo products on adult and pediatric canine and feline patients. 8. Perform a pedicure on dogs and cats. 9. Provide client education for the grooming care of pets. 10. Recognize the signs associated with impacted anal sacs. 11. Palpate and sketch the anal sacs of a dog to determine whether expression is necessary.	1	3	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Providing Nursing Care, Administration of Oral Medications	1. Explain what the technician must do to provide quality nursing care for hospitalized patients. 2. Explain the special challenges that providing nursing care to the non-ambulatory patients, geriatric, and pediatric patients present to the technician. 3. Accurately measure and administer tablets, capsules, liquid, and paste medications orally to dogs and cats. 4. Explain specific directions to a client concerning the administration of oral medication to their dog and cat. 5. State the "5 rights" as they apply to administering medication to animal patients. 6. Record the proper information in an animal's medical record after administering treatments.	1	6	0
Veterinary Medical Terminology, Descriptive Anatomical Terms and Locations	1. Demonstrate and use proper medical terminology when communicating an animal's condition verbally or in writing.	0.5	3	0
Parenteral Administration of Medication	1. Identify the different types and sizes of needles and syringes used for parenteral injections. 2. Describe the different routes used for parenteral administration. 3. Aseptically prepare and accurately administer subcutaneous and intramuscular injections to dogs and cats. 4. Describe and list the inherent dangers associated with parenteral medication administration.	1	21	0
Venipuncture Technique	1. Explain the purposes and possible complications for venipuncture. 2. Identify, list, and assemble the equipment needed for venipuncture. 3. Obtain a blood sample that is of diagnostic quality for routine laboratory analysis from the cephalic and saphenous vein of a dog following proper procedure. 4. Demonstrate how to safely restrain a dog for venipuncture.	1	9	0
Complete Otic Exam and Ear Care Procedures	1. Describe normal anatomy and abnormal conditions of the ear. 2. Perform basic otic treatment procedures, including cleaning and medication administration. 3. Obtain and assemble otic samples for diagnosis.	1	3	0
Urethral Catheterization and Collection Methods of Urine Samples for Laboratory Analysis	1. Describe the proper collection techniques and handling of urine samples for laboratory analysis. 2. List the purposes and complications of urethral catheterization. 3. Describe the step-by-step aseptic procedure for urethral catheterization in the dog and cat. 4. Use correct procedure to collect a voided urine sample on a dog and cat. 5. Label and preserve urine samples for laboratory analysis. 6. Choose the correct size urinary catheter and measure the proper distance for placement of a urethral catheter in a male dog.	1	3	0
Orogastric Intubation	1. List and define different methods of intubation. 2. Discuss the clinical applications and possible complications of orogastric intubation. 3. Measure an orogastric tube and perform orogastric intubation on a dog. 4. Explain the process for tube feeding in orphaned puppies and kittens.	1	6	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Emergency and Critical Care Nursing	1. Describe the triage process for an emergent patient over the phone and upon arrival at the veterinary hospital. 2. Assess hydration and recognize hypovolemia in critical care patients. 3. Explain the principles of basic first aid. 4. Identify the ideal location for an emergency care station and/or resuscitation area and explain how to set up and stock a crash cart. 5. Compare and contrast the different types of shock, explain how each is treated, and identify and explain advanced emergency techniques performed on small animals. 6. Discuss disorders of the respiratory system seen in critically ill small animal patients. 7. List the common causes of cardiopulmonary arrest and explain the principles of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. 8. Describe the principles of basic and advanced life support in small animals and care of the post-arrest patient. 9. List common small animal toxicities and emergencies and discuss appropriate patient stabilization and treatment. 10. Adapt dosage based on calculations for common emergency medications.	2	3	0
Complete Physical Exam	1. Accurately examine and assess the respiratory, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, nervous, and urogenital systems of dogs and cats. 2. Identify normal ocular structures and recognize the signs of common ocular disorders in dogs and cats. 3. Identify normal ear structures and recognize the signs of common ear disorders in dogs and cats. 4. Make clinical observations to determine the health of the patient's integumentary system. 5. Assess the hydration status of the patient and recognize common signs of dehydration. 6. Explain the physiological functions of the lymphatic system and what role the lymph nodes play in maintaining the health of the animal. 7. Locate and palpate each superficial lymph node and recognize clinical abnormalities when present.	2.5	15	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
15	90	0