



Course Description

ATE2722C | Avian and Exotic Pet Medicine | 2.00 credits

This course is designed to acquaint students with the medical care associated with exotic animals and avians. Students will learn types of species that may be encountered in a practice and their associated care techniques.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the different species that may be encountered in a private practice setting by:

1. Listing and identifying the common individual mammal species and identifying what group the species belongs to (i.e., Mustelid vs lagomorph vs rodent, etc.)
2. Listing and identifying the common non-mammalian vertebrate species (birds, reptiles, amphibians) and identifying what group the species belongs to (i.e., Psittacine vs. Passerine, etc.; Iguanid vs. Varanid lizard, etc.; Newt vs. Frog, etc.)
3. Identifying the differences between domesticated (domestic), tame, wild, feral, and exotic “pets” and recognizing the inadvisability of keeping wildlife as pets
4. Recognizing that some species make particularly inappropriate “pets” and being able to discuss the safety issues concerning handling and treating these species (venomous reptiles, nonhuman primates, big cats, wolf hybrids, bears, raccoons, and many others!)

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate knowledge of exotic animal husbandry and medicine by:

1. Explaining the appropriate restraint techniques for common nontraditional mammalian and nonmammalian pet species needed for examination, sample collection, and common diagnostic procedures
2. Recognizing that handling and restraint cause stress, even in healthy individuals, in most of these species and that stress can influence behavior and alter laboratory test results
3. Recognizing signs of stress and disease in exotic and other nontraditional pet species
4. Discussing the requirements for hospitalization and treatment, the performance of common procedures (IV catheter placement, blood/sample collection, etc.), And the administration of medications for these “special species.”
5. Explaining the proper and improper techniques for trimming bird wings, nails, beaks, and rabbit teeth and citing the average physiological values for common pet species of psittacine birds and reptiles, ferrets and rabbits, and knowing where to find such information for these and other, less commonly encountered species

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge of physical and behavioral attributes of the various species by:

1. Differentiating male and female by the size of the animal and the role color plays in identification
2. Identifying the unique anatomy of the various species and the role this anatomy plays in its survival
3. Contrasting and comparing natural habitat versus captive housing requirements for the various species
4. Displaying an understanding of the temperament and behavior of the species in captive environments versus natural habitats
5. Identifying the husbandry requirements for the captive species
6. Identifying the nutritional requirements for the captive species

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society