

Small Animal Care

Course Description: Small Animal Care contains objectives to prepare students for careers in managing and caring for specialty and companion animals. As our population raises more specialty and companion animals for production purposes and personal value, careers that work with these animals in a safe environment will continue to expand.

Recommended Prerequisites: Agriscience (HQ) or Principles of Agricultural Sciences

Recommended Credit: 1

Recommended Grade Level: 10th, 11th or 12th

Course Codes: (2009-2010) A10 – 5122 or A12 – 5172
(2010-2015) A12 – 5172

Small Animal Care

Standard 1.0

Evaluate the history, classification, domestication and importance of the small animal industry.

Standard 2.0

Demonstrate safety techniques within the small animal industry

Standard 3.0

Evaluate responsible pet ownership.

Standard 4.0

Discuss issues regarding the small animal care industry.

Standard 5.0

Analyze small animal nutrition and digestive systems.

Standard 6.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of dogs and cats.

Standard 7.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.

Standard 8.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.

Standard 9.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.

Standard 10.0

Integrate academic competencies with small animal care.

Standard 11.0

Demonstrate premier leadership and personal growth needed for careers in animal care.

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Standard 1.0

Evaluate the history, classification, domestication and importance of the small animal industry.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 1.1 Summarize terminology associated with the small animal care industry.
- 1.2 Evaluate the historical use of domesticated animals.
- 1.3 Assess the process of and reasons for animal domestication.
- 1.4 Determine the taxonomy of small animals.
- 1.5 Evaluate the economic impact of the small animal industry in the home and business environment.

Standard 2.0

Demonstrate safety techniques within the small animal industry.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 2.1 Identify diseases that may be transmitted from animals to humans.
- 2.2 Evaluate steps to prevent infection between animals and humans.
- 2.3 Demonstrate methods for restraining animals for the safety of the handler and the animal.
- 2.4 Demonstrate steps for safe use of chemicals and medications used in the small animal industry.

Standard 3.0

Evaluate responsible pet ownership.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 3.1 Develop a list of important factors to consider when choosing a pet.
- 3.2 Compare different sources for obtaining a pet.
- 3.3 Summarize the skills and management practices displayed by a responsible pet owner.
- 3.4 Explore the benefits of pets in society.
- 3.5 Debate the use of euthanasia for control of animal populations.

Standard 4.0

Discuss issues regarding the small animal care industry.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 4.1 Compare theories of animal rights and animal welfare.
- 4.2 Identify important persons, organizations, and dates associated with animal rights and animal welfare.
- 4.3 Debate current issues related to animal rights and animal welfare.

Standard 5.0

Analyze small animal nutrition and digestive systems.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 5.1 Examine the basic nutrient requirements for different animals.
- 5.2 Distinguish between ruminant and nonruminant animals.
- 5.3 Specify the various nutrient groups that are important in the diets of animals during their life stages.

Standard 6.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of dogs and cats.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 6.1 Determine the historical importance of the breeds of dogs / cats.
- 6.2 Assess housing needs for dogs / cats.
- 6.3 Evaluate the behavior and instincts of dogs / cats.
- 6.4 Examine the specific nutritional requirements of dogs / cats.
- 6.5 Identify the common diseases and their effects on dogs / cats.
- 6.6 Examine the reproductive cycles and breeding methods for dogs / cats.

Standard 7.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 7.1 Determine the historical importance of the breeds of rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.
- 7.2 Assess housing needs for rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.
- 7.3 Evaluate the behavior and instincts of rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.
- 7.4 Examine the specific nutritional requirements of rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.
- 7.5 Identify the common diseases and their effects on rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.
- 7.6 Examine the reproductive cycles and breeding methods for rabbits, chinchillas, and guinea pigs.

Standard 8.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 8.1 Determine the historical importance of the breeds of hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.
- 8.2 Assess housing needs for hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.
- 8.3 Evaluate the behavior and instincts of hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.
- 8.4 Examine the specific nutritional requirements of hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.
- 8.5 Identify the common diseases and their effects on hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.
- 8.6 Examine the reproductive cycles and breeding methods for hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils, and ferrets.

Standard 9.0

Evaluate breeds, characteristics, care, feeding and health of birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 9.1 Determine the historical importance of the breeds of birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.
- 9.2 Assess housing needs for birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.
- 9.3 Evaluate the behavior and instincts of birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.
- 9.4 Examine the specific nutritional requirements of birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.
- 9.5 Identify the common diseases and their effects on birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.
- 9.6 Examine the reproductive cycles and breeding methods for birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.

Standard 10.0

Integrate academic competencies with small animal care.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 10.1 Construct and use spreadsheets and databases to keep records on animal nutrition and breeding.
- 10.2 Convert English units of measurement to metric units.
- 10.3 Use ratios to determine feeding requirements for animals.
- 10.4 Read and construct graphs on animal growth.
- 10.5 Diagram gross anatomy of animals.
- 10.6 Examine an animal's physiology.
- 10.7 Utilize the scientific method in analyzing health problems of animals.

Standard 11.0

Demonstrate premier leadership and personal growth needed for careers in animal care.

Learning Expectations and Performance Indicators:

- 11.1 Evaluate possible SAEP, supervised agricultural experience program, opportunities in small animal care.
- 11.2 Relate the knowledge and skills learned in an SAEP to an agricultural career or hobby.
- 11.3 Demonstrate skills needed for effective leadership.
- 11.4 Demonstrate methods and techniques of parliamentary procedure.
- 11.5 Assess career opportunities associated with small animal care.
- 11.6 Recommend sources for obtaining information for advanced training in the care and marketing of companion animals.