

***BOVA Intensive Master Course***  
**Practical Comparative Animal Welfare Assessment**  
**16 – 20 March 2015**  
**3 ECTS (also contains the distance learning part)**  
***Venue: Estonian University of Life Sciences***

***Course description***

The rationale is to provide students at Masters level with the confidence and competence to assess the welfare of animals kept by humans; as pets, in rescue centres, for display, for research and for food production. The course involves engagement and discussion of the current literature and therefore compliments Masters level requirements for familiarity with current scholarship. The course is innovative in as much as it exposes students to practitioners in the field of animal welfare in the region and requires of them to explore and demonstrate practical understanding of methods of assessment.

As this is a practical course, a large element of the teaching will be assessing the welfare of real animals in real contexts. In addition, the course will involve lecturing and seminars to ensure that the students have the background and practice in understanding the methods and issues of animal welfare science. Achievement of outcomes will be demonstrated by a presentation by the student of how they would assess the welfare of animals in a given situation, how they would justify this, and also a critical evaluation of other assessment methods in other situations of animal use.

The following main topics are the focus of the course:

- Animal Welfare Concepts
- Assessment of Welfare
- Animal Welfare in Different Contexts
- Animal Behaviour and Welfare

Course consists of two parts:

1. Distance learning part, an online exercise and preparation of presentation
2. Meeting in person 16th – 20th March, 2015.

In the period of the meeting in person the students will:

- listen to the lectures,
- participate in workshops,
- visit captive animal sites (farm, wildlife park and rescue centre)

The meeting in person will end with the presentation of group work results (PowerPoint presentation and short written report).

***Teaching team***

University of Eastern Finland: Jaakko Mononen,

Swedish University of Life Sciences: Lena Lidfors

Estonian University of Life Sciences: Allan Kaasik, David Arney, Marko Kass, Ragnar Leming, Tiia Ariko

Latvia University of Agriculture: Lilija Degola, Elita Aplocina

University Basilicata (Italy): Maria Serrapica

**Course schedule**

**Monday, 16.03**

- 09.00 Introduction to the course, presentation of student work (DA)
- 10.00 Animal welfare and organic farming in Latvia (EA)
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.15 Animal welfare and organic farming in Latvia (EA)
- 11.45 Pig Welfare and Assessment (LD)

13.00 Lunch  
14.00 Q and A. Welfare in Latvia (EA and LD, DA)  
14.30 Stereotypes in mink and use of environmental enrichment to reduce the behaviour (LL)  
15.30 Coffee break  
16.00 Play behaviour in sheep (LL)  
17.00 Finish

### **Tuesday, 17.03**

09.00 Animal Welfare Concepts (DA)  
10.00 Tour of veterinary hospital (MK and MR)  
11.00 coffee break  
11.30 Animal welfare and welfare assessment (DA)  
13.00 Lunch  
14.00 Welfare at transport and slaughter (DA)  
15.15 coffee break  
15.30 Qualitative Behavioural Analysis (MS)  
17.00 Finish  
19.00 Evening social dinner

### **Wednesday, 18.03**

09.00 Automated methods for measuring behaviour of dairy cows (JM)  
10.30 Coffee break  
11.00 Welfare and assessment in zoos and circuses (DA)  
11.45 Dog behaviour and welfare (TA)  
13.00 Lunch  
14.00 Q and A session, dog welfare (TA)  
14.30 Welfare in different regions/religions of the world (DA)  
15.30 Coffee break  
15.45 Introduction to final assessment exercise, and preparation period. (DA)  
17.30 Finish

### **Thursday 19.03**

All day excursion to Elistvere Animal Park, university farm and Tartu animal rescue centre (DA and MK)

### **Friday, 20.03**

09.00 Welfare and the animal environment (AK)  
09.45 Welfare and Organic Agriculture (RL)  
10.30 coffee break  
11.00 Student presentations of assessments (DA)  
12.30 Lunch  
13.30 Student presentations of assessments (DA)  
15.00 Coffee break  
15.15 Final session, wrap-up, certificates, evaluation.  
17.00 Finish

**Course leader:** Professor David Arney, department of nutrition, Estonian University of Life Sciences

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**Information for registration:** Fill in the BOVA Mobility Registration Form at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/158sKM2K5toxz-lnGRN0E\\_em6ae17N9dottpyhWwdb7E/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/158sKM2K5toxz-lnGRN0E_em6ae17N9dottpyhWwdb7E/viewform) or consult your local BOVA or NOVA coordinators.

**Don't miss the registration deadline: March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015!**