

BOVA Intensive Master Course
Practical Comparative Animal Welfare Assessment
3rd-7th April 2017
3 ECTS
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. A range of animal species will be considered, including farm, pet animals and animals in zoos. 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 3rd – 7th April, 2017.

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 an animal rescue centre)



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

Scholarship information

Students from NOVA and BOVA universities are advised to contact the local Nordplus coordinators and apply for Nordplus Express Mobility grants to cover accommodation and travel costs.

Teaching team

Swedish University of Life Sciences: Lena Lidfors

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

Lithuanian Veterinary Academy: Vytautas Ribikauskas

Course leader: professor David Arney, Estonian University of Life Sciences, david.arney@emu.ee

Don't miss the registration deadline: March 20th 2017!

Monday, April 3

09.00 Introduction to the course, presentation of student work (DA)
10.00 Animal Welfare Concepts (DA)
11.00 Coffee break
11.30 Poultry Welfare (VR)
13.00 Lunch
14.00 Dog behaviour and welfare (TA)
15.00 Coffee break
15.30 Q and A session, dog welfare (TA)
17.00 Finish

Tuesday, April 4

09.00 Continue presentation and discussion of student work (DA)
10.30 Coffee break
11.00 Welfare and the animal environment (AK)
13.00 Lunch
14.00 Nutrition and welfare (MK)
15.00 coffee break
15.30 Welfare of animals in zoos (LT)
16.30 Animal welfare and welfare assessment (DA)
17.30 Finish.
19.00 Evening social dinner



Wednesday, April 5

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

Thursday, April 6

09.00 Tour of veterinary hospital (MK and MR)
10.45 coffee break
11.15 Welfare and Organic Agriculture (RL)
13.00 Lunch
14.00 Stereotypies in mink and use of environmental enrichment to reduce the behaviour (LL)
15.00 Play behaviour in sheep (LL)
15.30 Coffee break
15.45 Introduction to final assessment exercise, and preparation period. (DA and LL)
17.30 Finish

Friday, April 7

09.00 Final preparation period.
11.00 Student presentations of assessments (DA and LL)
12.30 Lunch
13.30 Student presentations of assessments (DA and LL)
15.00 Coffee break
15.15 Final session, wrap-up, certificates, evaluation.(DA and LL)
17.00 Finish