Chapter: Course Outline & Downloads

This course is intended to provide veterinarians with an introduction of how to approach wildlife medicine cases for the purpose of stabilizing the animal and subsequent transfer to an authorized wildlife rehabilitator. Further, veterinarians will learn about various wildlife rehabilitation considerations that are important to restore the health and welfare of the wild patient.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the permits, laws, regulations, and ethical considerations in treating wildlife in private practice
2. Demonstrate skill in triage (including wound management and basic bandaging/fracture immobilization), restraint, and physical examination of wild patients
3. Critically evaluate when euthanasia is the most appropriate outcome and the proper procedure to ensure a humane death in various species
4. Evaluate, prepare a plan, and demonstrate skill in terms of how to stabilize wild animals, including minimizing stress and aspects of wild animal welfare, administering fluid therapy, providing appropriate thermoregulation, and administering appropriate analgesics
5. Describe necessary housing, nutrition, and enrichment for wildlife patients while in temporary care in a private practice before transfer to an authorized wildlife rehabilitator and how to avoid iatrogenic injuries or illnesses while in short-term captivity
6. Evaluate whether an animal is “orphaned” and work with a wildlife rehabilitator for potential reuniting and fostering
7. Describe common infectious diseases seen in reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals, with a focus on zoonotic diseases for patients admitted to a private practice

This course is organized into seven units. You will review approximately five hours of pre-recorded lectures, complete homework assignments, and complete quizzes prior to the live sessions.

Unit 1
In Unit 1, the following topics are covered:

- Introduction to wildlife rehabilitation (and rehab medicine)
- Permits
- Regulations

Unit 2
In Unit 2, the following topics are covered:

- Wild animal welfare
- Ethical considerations when rehabilitating wildlife
- Tenets of stabilization (minimizing stress, fluid therapy, appropriate thermoregulation, analgesics)

Unit 3
In Unit 3, the following topics are covered:

- Physical examination
- Types of wounds
- Bandaging/fracture immobilization

Unit 4
In Unit 4, the following topics are covered:

- Euthanasia – case selection
- How to euthanize various species
Unit 5
In Unit 5, the following topics are covered:

• Nutrition
• Housing
• Enrichment
• Iatrogenic injuries in captivity

Unit 6
In Unit 6, the following topics are covered:

• Orphaned versus kidnapped concepts

Unit 7
In Unit 7, the following topics are covered:

• Zoonotic concerns in mammals, birds, reptiles
• Common diseases, processes, or zoonotic concerns (e.g. mange, mycoplasma, distemper, rabies, nMBD, etc.)

Actions:
Week 1 (Tuesday through end of day Friday):
1. Review the videos and PowerPoint presentations that are available in Freestone for Units 1-7
2. Join the synchronous, introduction session with your instructor on Tuesday

Week 2 (Monday through end of day Friday):
1. Submit your drug calculation question homework by Tuesday of week 2
2. Submit your fluid therapy homework by Tuesday of week 2
3. Complete all quizzes by end of day Friday

Assessments 100%
1. Drug calculation homework. A passing grade of 80% is required to pass the course. One re-write (corrections) is permitted if you do not achieve 80%. Weighting – 5%
2. Fluid therapy homework. A passing grade of 80% is required to pass the course. One re-write (corrections) is permitted if you do not achieve 80%. Weighting – 5%
3. Three quizzes of 10 questions are required. A passing grade of 80% is required. Participants are able to have three attempts to pass the quiz. Weighting 15%
4. Participation in the live sessions is mandatory to pass the course. Review of content, case study discussions, and a wet lab are part of the final sessions. Students need to demonstrate proper placement of splints, placement of wraps, administration of fluids/medications, gavage feeding, and how to conduct a physical exam. Both days must be attended in order to pass the course. Weighting 75%
5. Final Quiz - Weighting 10%

An overall passing grade of 80% is required to pass this course.