

Academic subject: Ethological bases of animal learning			
Degree Class: L-38		Degree Course: Animal Science	
		Academic Year: 2020/2021	
		Kind of class: Mandatory	
		Year: II	Period: II
		ECTS: 6 divided into ECTS lessons: 5 ECTS exe/lab/tutor: 1	
Time management, hours, in-class study hours, out-of-class study hours lesson: 50 exe/lab/tutor: 25 in-class study: 0 out-of-class study: 75			
Language: Italian		Compulsory Attendance: yes	
Subject Teacher: Serenella d'Ingeo		e-mail: serenella.dingeo@uniba.it	
		Office: Department of Veterinary Medicine Room Floor	
		Office days and hours: Tuesday- Thursday 10.00- 12.00 am Monday and Wednesday 3.00-5.00 pm	
Prerequisites: Principles of physiology and endocrinology of domestic animals Students must have taken and passed the exam of Zoology, histology and anatomy and Principles of physiology and endocrinology of domestic animals. They should have acquired therefore the main principles in the field of anatomy and physiology of domestic animals, whose knowledge underlies the understanding of animal behaviour.			
Educational objectives: Students are expected to acquire technical and in-depth knowledge of the behaviour of domestic species and about the intraspecific and human-animal communication signals. Students are also expected to autonomously and critically evaluate the state of well-being and the specific ethological needs of domestic species.			
Expected learning outcomes (according to Dublin Descriptors)		<p>Knowledge and understanding: Students are expected to acquire in-depth and technical knowledge of the behaviour of the domestic species and correct scientific ethological terminology</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding: Students have to acquired the ability to critically and independently discuss the issues addressed in the teaching program, identifying the cause / effect processes underlying the behaviour of domestic species</p> <p>Making judgements: The course provides key elements for an autonomous and critical evaluation of domestic animal welfare state and ethological needs.</p> <p>Communication: The course transfers the knowledge of the appropriate use of a scientific and technical language concerning animal ethology and welfare.</p> <p>Lifelong learning skills: The course provides specific knowledge about animal ethology and learning processes, which constitute the basis for a systematic and proper evaluation of animal welfare, both for livestock and pets.</p>	
Course program			
Basic principles of animal ethology. The study of animal behaviour: the descriptive and experimental ethology.			

<p>Experimental ethology: methods of ethological study. Applied ethology: assessment of animal welfare, behavioural problems, training of working animals. Motivational systems and states in pets. Types of stimuli.</p> <p>Animal behaviour. Origins of behaviour and effect of domestication. Impulses, innate and learned behaviours. Genetics, heritability and influence of genes on behaviour. Behaviour development and critical periods. Knowledge and memory. Social behaviour and communication. The emotions of domestic animals. Sexual and reproductive behaviour. Biological rhythms. Feeding behaviour and sleep. Maternal behaviour.</p> <p>Learning. Neuroendocrine basis of learning and motivation. Learning classification. Attention and learning. Habituation and associative learning. Latent learning. Instrumental learning. Imprinting. Play. Insight. Memories and cognitive maps. Social learning. Imitation.</p> <p>The human-animal relationship. The use of domestic animals for human activities: animal assisted interventions, food production, sports, utilities, exhibitions. Animal welfare.</p> <p>Practical lessons: The ethogram: the processing and evaluation of animal behaviour. Visual communication in domestic species. The study of animal emotions: Ethological parameters for evaluating the emotions of animals. Animal welfare: Methods for assessing animal welfare. Stress signals in domestic species. Experimental ethology: elaboration of an experimental protocol.</p>
<p>Teaching methods:</p> <p>The lessons will take place in the classroom, using the support of a projector, and will be presented as PowerPoint slideshow.</p> <p>The practical lessons will take place at the Labdog laboratory of the Section of Animal Physiology and Behaviour of the Department of Veterinary Medicine.</p>
<p>Auxiliary teaching:</p> <p>White Coat</p>
<p>Assessment methods:</p> <p>Oral exam. Student have to demonstrate technical and in-depth knowledge of several topics of the course program, using scientific terminology and showing critical skills in analysing the behaviour of domestic animals.</p>
<p>Bibliography:</p> <p>Per Jensen: The Ethology of Domestic Animals. McGraw-Hill – 2011</p>