ACCADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

General information	
Academic subject	**ETHOLOGICAL BASES OF ANIMAL LEARNING**
Degree course	Animal Science L38
Academic Year	II year
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	5+1
Language	Italian
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	II semester: 26/02/2024 – 14/06/2024
Attendance	Mandatory

Professor/ Lecturer	
Name and Surname	Gianluca Ventriglia
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Telephone	+39 080 5443902
Department and address	Campus of Veterinary Medicine, S.P. 62 to Casamassima km 3, 70010 Valenzano (Ba)
Virtual headquarters	Microsoft Teams platform if necessary (Teams Code: y8s3vm8)
Tutoring (time and day)	Tuesday- Thursday 10.00-12.00 am Monday and Wednesday 3.00-5.00 pm

Sllabus	
Learning Objectives	The course aims at transferring technical and in-depth knowledge of the behaviour of domestic species and about the intraspecific and human-animal communication signals. In addition, the course aims at creating useful knowledge for an autonomous and critical assessment of the specific ethological needs and the welfare of companion animals.
Course prerequisites	Students must have passed the exam of 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.
Contents	**Lectures** **Basic principles of animal ethology.** The study of animal behaviour. Experimental ethology. Applied ethology. Motivational systems and states in pets. **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. Social behaviour and communication. The emotions of domestic animals. Sexual and reproductive behaviour. Biological rhythms. Feeding behaviour and sleep. Maternal behaviour. **Learning.** learning classification. Habituation and associative learning. Imprinting. Play. Insight. Imitation. Practical activities: 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. Animalvwelfare: Methods for assessing animal welfare. Stress signals in domestic species. Experimental ethology: elaboration of an experimental protocol.
Books and bibliography	Per Jensen: The Ethology of Domestic Animals. McGraw-Hill – 2011
Additional materials	Lecture notes are recommended

Work schedule	

U.O. Didattica e servizi agli studenti
Strada prov.le 62 per Casamassima, km. 3,00
70010 Valenzano (Bari) - Italy
Tel. (+39) 080 5443944-46-41 • fax (+39) 080 5443939
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Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
Hours			
150	***40***	***10***	***100***
ECTS			
6	***5***	***1***	

Teaching strategy	
	Lessons will take place in the classroom, using the support of a projector, and will be presented as PowerPoint slideshows. The practical lessons will take place at the Labdog laboratory of the Section of Animal Physiology and Behaviour of the Department of Veterinary Medicine for a direct observation and evaluation of animal behaviour and welfare state by applyingthe different methodologies illustrated during lectures.
Expected learning outcomes	
Knowledge and understanding on:	o Basic knowledge of the factors that determine the expression of animal behaviour o Basic knowledge related to the different species-specific behaviours and ethological needs of domestic species
Applying knowledge and understanding on:	o Basic knowledge of animal behaviour assessment methodologies o Basic knowledge related to the parameters employed for the assessment of welfare
Soft skills	• *Making informed judgments and choise* ○ At the end of the course, students must be able to evaluate the meaning of specific animal behaviours and to express their opinions about the causes and the factors affecting their expression. • *Communicating knowledge and understanding* ○ Students must acquire the correct scientific skills and technical language to provide specialist professional support. • *Capacities continuing learning* ○ Student must acquire the ability to improve their knowledge independently through further studies by reading specialized text and scientific literature, as well as courses, training and by the direct observation of animals and their behaviour.

Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	
Evaluation criteria	• *Knowledge and understanding* ○ Students are expected to organize the knowledge of the basic and fundamental concepts of teaching and to analyse the cause-effect relationships underlying animal behaviour and the ethological needs of the domestic species; • *Applying knowledge and understanding* ○ Students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge about the methodologies and parameters employed for evaluating animal behaviour and welfare • *Autonomy of judgment* ○ Students are expected to propose critical hypotheses on the causes and factors affecting the expression of companion animal behaviours • *Communicating knowledge and understanding* ○ Students are expected to critically and independently discuss the issues addressed in the course program

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	○ Students are expected to make connections between the different topics of the course program ○ Students are expected to discuss the program topics with appropriate scientific and technical language • *Capacities to continue learning* ○ Students are expected to show the ability to improve their knowledge independently through the reading of specialized texts and scientific literature.
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	The assessment of students' knowledge will be carried out through an oral interview. The final mark is expressed in thirtieths. The minimal final mark to pass the exam is 18/30. The highest marks will be attributed to the students who show optimal knowledge of the course program topics and the ability of using the correct scientific terminology during the interview.
Additional information	

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