

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES OF UKRAINE

**Department of Animal and Food Hygiene
named after prof. A.K. Skorokhodko**

APPROVED
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
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CURRICULUM OF ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

ANIMAL WELFARE, ETHOLOGY AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Area of knowledge 21 – «Veterinary medicine»
Specialty 211 – «Veterinary Medicine»
Academic programme «Veterinary Medicine»
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
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Description of the discipline «ANIMAL WELFARE, ETHOLOGY AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS»

The program of the discipline provides an understanding that animal health, quality and safety of animal products reflect the conditions in which animals are kept. Basic understanding of local, national, regional and international animal welfare legislation.

Animal welfare involves the preservation and protection of animal health by creating comfortable and safe conditions, balanced and nutritious feeding, and minimizing suffering from negative environmental impacts. This approach covers all aspects of an animal's life, including appropriate indoor conditions, management, feeding, disease prevention and treatment, responsible humane treatment, humane slaughter or euthanasia if necessary.

Ethology studies the behavior of productive and domestic animals, understanding the fundamental principles of realizing their natural behavior and healthy psycho-emotional state by creating appropriate conditions that correspond to species, sex, age and technological groups of animals.

The study of **professional ethics** allows you to assess and improve the oral and written communication skills of a higher education student (communication with clients, colleagues, management and subordinates; ability to resolve conflict problems; acquiring skills in educational work and public speaking). Understanding of the code of professional conduct and veterinary ethics; local and national legislation and regulations governing veterinary activities.

Area of knowledge, specialty, academic programme, academic degree		
Academic degree	Master’s	
Specialty	211 «Veterinary Medicine»	
Academic programme	«Veterinary Medicine»	
Characteristics of the discipline		
Type	basic	
Total number of hours	120	
Number of ECTS credits	4	
Number of modules	3	
Form of assessment	credit	
Indicators of the discipline for full-time and part-time forms of university study		
	University study	
	Full-time	Part-time
Year of study	3	
Term	VI	
Lectures	30 hours	
Practical classes and seminars	30 hours	
Laboratory classes		
Self-study	60 hours	
Number of hours per week for full-time students	4 hours	

1. Aim, competences and expected learning outcomes of the discipline

The **aim** of the discipline is to acquire knowledge, skills and abilities on issues related to animal welfare, creating comfortable and safe conditions for animals, feeding, natural

behavior, and relieving suffering caused by pain, fear and stress. Students should gain a broad understanding of the fundamental principles and issues of animal welfare and behavior. Basic understanding of local, national, regional and international animal welfare legislation. Study of policy making and implementation at local, national, regional and international levels through legislation, regulation and operational strategy; relevant public policy on animal welfare.

Emphasis should be placed on country-specific legislation and organizational structures, as well as international structures (e.g. Codex Alimentarius, European Commission...).

Practice, evaluate and improve oral and written communication skills, communicating with clients and colleagues about treatment and diagnosis; critical reading and comprehension of veterinary medicine issues; preparation of public speaking. Understanding of the code of professional conduct and veterinary medical ethics; local and national legislation and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine.

Competences acquired:

Integral competence (IC): Ability to solve complex tasks and problems in the field of veterinary medicine, which involves research and/or innovation and is characterized by uncertainty of conditions and requirements.

General competence (GC): 1. Ability to apply knowledge in practical situations. 2. The desire to preserve the environment.

Special (professional) competence (SC): Ability to apply knowledge of biosafety, bioethics and animal welfare in professional activities.

Expected learning outcomes (ELO): 1. Formulate conclusions about the effectiveness of selected methods and means of keeping, feeding and treating animals, prevention of contagious and non-contagious diseases, as well as production and technological processes at enterprises for the maintenance, breeding or operation of animals of different classes and species. 2. Propose and use appropriate innovative methods and approaches to solving problem situations of professional origin. 3. Know the rules and requirements of biosafety, bioethics and animal welfare.

Competencies of the First Day

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and legal framework within which the veterinarian must work, including professional, animal welfare, animal owner, public health, societal and environmental aspects of the profession.

3. Demonstrate basic knowledge of the organization, management and legislation related to veterinary practice. Understand the economic and emotional context in which the veterinarian works.

5. Communicate effectively with animal owners, the public, professional colleagues and relevant authorities, using language appropriate to the audience, and adhere to the principles of full respect for confidentiality and privacy.

6. Implement the principles of effective interpersonal interaction, including communication, leadership, management, teamwork, mutual respect and other soft skills.

8. Work effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team in the delivery of veterinary services and recognize the contributions of all team members.

12. Use professional skills to contribute to the development of veterinary knowledge and the implementation of the One Health concept to promote the health, safety and welfare of

animals, humans and the environment, as well as the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

13. Demonstrate the ability to recognize personal and professional capabilities and know how to seek professional advice, assistance and support when needed.

17. Handle patient animals safely, with respect for each animal, and train other colleagues to assist the veterinarian in performing these techniques.

21. Evaluate the physical condition, welfare and nutritional status of an animal or group of animals and advise the owner of animals on the principles of housing, feeding, reproduction, productive qualities, welfare, individual health, herd health and public health.

26. To access relevant sources of information and legislation related to animal care and welfare, animal movement, animal care and welfare notifications, animal movement, notifiable diseases, use of medicines, including the responsible use of antimicrobials.

33. Determine the appropriateness of euthanasia, perform it with respect for the animal and its owners, using an appropriate method that is safe for those present during the procedure; provide advice on ethical and legal aspects of the disposal of the corpse.

35. Conduct pre-slaughter inspection of animals used for food purposes, paying attention to welfare aspects, record observations, take tissue samples after slaughter, store and transport them for research.

2. Programme and structure of the discipline

Modules and topics	Number of hours													
	full-time							part-time						
	weeks	total	including					total	including					
			l	p	lab	ind.	s.st.		l	p	lab	ind.	s.st.	
Module 1. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS														
Topic 1. Introduction. Subject, methods and objectives of the discipline. Relationship with other disciplines.	1	8	2	2			4							
Topic 2. Professional traditions and ethics of a veterinarian.	2	8	2	2			4							
Topic 3. Communication. Official communication of a veterinarian.	3	8	2	2			4							
Topic 4. The personality of a veterinarian.	4	8	2	2			4							
Topic 5. Professional mistakes of a veterinarian.	5	8	2	2			4							
Total for module 1	40		10	10			20							
Module 2. ANIMAL ETHOLOGY														
Topic 6. Animal ethology. Subject, methods and objectives of the discipline.	6	8	2	2			4							
Topic 7. Forms of animal behavior. Social behavior.	7	8	2	2			4							

Topic 8. Reproductive behavior of animals. Marriage and family relationships. Caring for offspring.	8	8	2	2			4						
Topic 9. Aggressive behavior of animals and its significance.	9	8	2	2			4						
Topic 10. Sexual dimorphism. Biological rhythms and photoperiodism. Their influence on animal behavior.	10	8	2	2			4						
Total for module 2	40		10	10			20						
Module 3. <i>ANIMAL WELFARE</i>													
Topic 11. Animal welfare. Humane education. Legislative acts. European conventions.	11	8	2	2			4						
Topic 12. Pig welfare.	12	8	2	2			4						
Topic 13. Cattle welfare.	13	8	2	2			4						
Topic 14. Poultry welfare.	14	8	2	2			4						
Topic 15. Criteria for assessing animal welfare.	15	8	2	2			4						
Total for module 3	40		10	10			20						
Total hours	120		30	30			60						

3. Topics of lectures

No.	Topic	Hours
1	Introduction. Subject, methods and objectives of the discipline. Relationship with other disciplines.	2
2	Professional traditions and ethics of a veterinarian.	2
3	Communication. Official communication of a veterinarian.	2
4	The personality of a veterinarian.	2
5	Professional mistakes of a veterinarian.	2
6	Animal ethology. Subject, methods and objectives of the discipline.	2
7	Forms of animal behavior. Social behavior.	2
8	Reproductive behavior of animals. Marriage and family relationships. Caring for offspring.	2
9	Aggressive behavior of animals and its significance.	2
10	Sexual dimorphism. Biological rhythms and photoperiodism. Their influence on animal behavior.	2
11	Animal welfare. Humane education. Legislative acts. European conventions.	2
12	Pig welfare.	2
13	Cattle welfare.	2
14	Poultry welfare.	2
15	Criteria for assessing animal welfare.	2

4. Topic of practical classes

No.	Topic	Hours
1	Code of Professional Ethics for Veterinarians of Ukraine. Introduction to the discipline, safety precautions during practical training. Terminology and methodology.	2
2	The workplace of a veterinarian.	2
3	Ethical and Legal Aspects of Veterinary Medicine. The Law of Ukraine "On Protection of Animals from Cruel Treatment" of February 21, 2006, No. 3447-IV.	2
4	Official communication of a veterinarian.	2
5	Ways to prevent professional errors of veterinarians. Colloquium 1.	2
6	Forms of behavioral reactions of animals.	2
7	Rapid diagnosis of active-defensive reaction in dogs.	2
8	Behavioral reactions of animals in groups.	2
9	Studying the behavior of the stray dog population in a metropolitan area.	2
10	Species-specific behavior of different animals. Colloquium 2.	2
11	Comprehensive assessment of animal welfare.	2
12	Requirements for the welfare of animals during slaughter and euthanasia.	2
13	Methods of stunning productive animals before slaughter.	2
14	Welfare of farm animals.	2
15	Poultry welfare. Colloquium 3.	2

5. Topics of self-study

No.	Topic	Hours
1	Professional ethics of a doctor of humane and veterinary medicine. Common and distinctive.	4
2	Conflict situations in the work of a doctor and their prevention.	4
3	Biological risks in the work of a veterinarian.	4
4	Administration in veterinary clinics. Duties and rights of the staff.	4
5	Doctor's consultation, its purpose.	4
6	Animal training.	4
7	Controlling the number of stray animal populations.	4
8	Working with animals affected by natural disasters and war.	4
9	Testing animals for suitability for official use.	4
10	Adaptation of pets to new climate conditions.	4
11	Breeding animals lacking the aggressiveness gene.	4
12	Biological sabotage and ways to prevent it.	4
13	The use of animals in scientific experiments.	4
14	The One Health concept and aspects of animal welfare.	4
15	The concepts of comfort, discomfort and their provision for animals.	4

6. Methods of assessing expected learning outcomes:

- credit;
- module tests;
- report and presentation of work materials.

7. Teaching methods:

- verbal method (lecture, discussion, interview, etc.);
- practical method (practical classes);
- visual method (method of illustrations, method of demonstrations);

- work with educational and methodical literature (note-taking, thesis, annotation, reviewing, writing an abstract);
- video method (remote, multimedia, web-based, etc.);
- independent work (completion of tasks);
- individual research work of higher education students.

8. Results assessment.

The student's knowledge is assessed by means of a 100-point scale converted into the national grades according to the "Exam and Credit Regulations at NULES of Ukraine" in force.

8.1. Distribution of points by types of educational activities

Educational activity	Results	Assessment
Module 1. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS		
Practical work 1.	Propose and use appropriate innovative methods and approaches to solving problem situations of professional origin. Know the rules and requirements of biosafety, bioethics and animal welfare.	12
Practical work 2.		12
Practical work 3.		12
Practical work 4.		12
Practical work 5.		12
Self-study 1.		10
Module control work 1.		30
Total for module 1		100
Module 2. ANIMAL ETHOLOGY		
Practical work 6.	Formulate conclusions about the effectiveness of selected methods and means of keeping, feeding and treating animals, prevention of contagious and non-contagious diseases, as well as production and technological processes at enterprises for keeping, breeding or exploiting animals of different classes and species. Propose and use appropriate innovative methods and approaches to solving problem situations of professional origin. Know the rules and requirements of biosafety, bioethics and animal welfare.	12
Practical work 7.		12
Practical work 8.		12
Practical work 9.		12
Practical work 10.		12
Self-study 2.		10
Module control work 2.		30
Total for module 2		100
Module 3. ANIMAL WELFARE		
Practical work 11.	Formulate conclusions about the effectiveness of the selected methods and means of keeping, feeding and treating animals, prevention of contagious and non-contagious diseases, as well as production and technological processes at enterprises for the maintenance, breeding or operation of animals of various classes and species. Propose and use appropriate innovative methods and approaches to solving problem situations of professional origin. Know the rules and requirements of biosafety, bioethics and animal welfare.	12
Practical work 12.		12
Practical work 13.		12
Practical work 14.		12
Practical work 15.		12
Self-study 3.		10

Module control work 3.		30
Total for module 3		100
Class work	$(M1 + M2 + M3)/3 \cdot 0,7 \leq 70$	
Credit	30	
Total for year	$(\text{Class work} + \text{credit}) \leq 100$	

8.2. Scale for assessing student's knowledge

Student's rating, points	National grading (exam/credits)
90-100	excellent
74-89	good
60-73	satisfactory
0-59	unsatisfactory

8.3. Assessment policy

Deadlines and exam retaking rules	Works that are submitted late without valid reasons will be assessed with a lower grade. Module tests may be retaken with the permission of the lecturer if there are valid reasons (e.g. a sick leave).
Academic integrity rules	Cheating during tests and exams is prohibited (including using mobile devices). Term papers and essays must have correct references to the literature used.
Attendance rules	Attendance is compulsory. For good reasons (e.g. illness, international internship), training can take place individually (online by the faculty dean's consent).

9. Teaching and learning aids:

- e-learning course of the discipline (on the educational portal of NULES of Ukraine eLearn - <https://elearn.nubip.edu.ua/course/view.php?id=3362>);
- lecture notes and presentations (in electronic form);
- textbooks, manuals, workshops, including «Ethology and Animal Welfare». Textbook / Zakharenko M.O., Polyakovsky V.M., Mykhalska V.M., Shevchenko L.V. Kyiv: NULES of Ukraine, 2021. 625 p.;
- methodical materials for studying the discipline for full-time higher education students.

10. Recommended sources of information

1. Ethology and animal welfare. Textbook / Zakharenko M.O., Polyakovsky V.M., Mykhalska V.M., Shevchenko L.V. Kyiv: NUBiP of Ukraine, 2021. 625 p.
2. Law of Ukraine "On the Protection of Animals from Cruelty" of 21. 02. 2006 № 3447-IV Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. 2006. № 27. P. 230.
3. Order of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine of 29.07.2024 No. 2266 On Approval of the Requirements for Ensuring the Welfare of Working Animals Belonging to the Equidae Family <https://iplex360.com.ua/npa.php?doc=1239.2596.0>.
4. Order of the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine of 08.02.2021 No. 224 On Approval of the Requirements for the Welfare of Farm Animals during their Keeping <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0206-21#Text>.
5. Order of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine of 29.08.2022 No. 628 On Approval of the Requirements for Animal Welfare during Slaughter and Euthanasia <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1244-22#Text>.
6. European Convention for the Protection of Domestic Animals. The Convention was ratified by Law No. 578-VII (578-18) of September 18, 2013.

7. Singer P. Animal Liberation. Kyiv: Pabulum, 2019. 456 p.
8. Veterinary deontology. Methodological recommendations. Mykolaiv. 2020. <https://dspace.mnau.edu.ua/jspui/bitstream/123456789/7899/1/Veterynarna%20deontolohiia.pdf>.
9. Wild Planet Trust Wellbeing Audit Guidance Document <https://www.eaza.net/assets/Uploads/Areas-of-Activity/Animal-welfare/Docs/Ukrainian.pdf>.
10. Resolution № 262 of March 17, 2016 On approval of the Rules for keeping and handling animals in Lviv.
11. Aleksandrenko VV The concept and methods of cruel treatment of animals / VV Aleksandrenko // Juridical science. - 2015. - № 6. - P. 116-120.
12. Bondarenko NS Attitude of the population to the problem of prevention of cruelty to animals (according to the results of sociological research) / NS Bondarenko // Law and Society. - 2015. - № 3 (3). - P. 123-126.