

ACCADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

| General information | |
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| Academic subject | BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES integrated exam of PET BREEDING TECHNIQUES |
| Degree course | Animal Science L38 |
| Academic Year | III year |
| European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) | 2 |
| Language | Italian |
| Academic calendar (starting and ending date) | II Semester: 26/02/2024-14/06/2024 |
| Attendance | Mandatory |

| Professor/ Lecturer | |
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| Name and Surname | Serenella d'Ingeo |
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| Telephone | +39 080 5443947 |
| Department and address | Campus of Veterinary Medicine, S.P. 62 to Casamassima km 3, 70010 Valenzano (Ba) |
| Virtual headquarters | Microsoft Teams Platform if necessary (Team Code: 8l1fveg) |
| Tutoring (time and day) | Tuesday - Thursday 10.00-12.00. Monday and Wednesday 15.00 - 17.00 |

| Syllabus | |
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| Learning Objectives | The course aims at transferring technical and in-depth knowledge of the behavioural modification techniques and the specific scientific language in the field of ethology |
| Course prerequisites | Students must have taken and passed the Ethological bases of animal learning and Breeding techniques exams. They should have acquired therefore the main principles about the behaviour of domestic species, the intraspecific and human-animal communication methods and the ethological needs of each species. |
| Contents | Learning in domestic animals. Types of learning. Emotions and learning. Motivations and learning. Characteristics of associative learning. Characteristics of instrumental learning. Practical Lessons: Practical Learning Techniques: Classical Conditioning. Instrumental conditioning. Reinforcements and punishments. Extinction. Clicker training and classic and instrumental conditioning. Shaping. Chaining. Flooding. Sensitization. Systematic desensitization. Counter-conditioning. |
| Books and bibliography | Per Jensen: The Ethology of Domestic Animals. McGraw-Hill – 2011 |
| Additional materials | Lecture notes are recommended |

| Work schedule | | | |
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| Total | Lectures | Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips) | Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours |
| Hours | | | |
| 50 | 8 | 10 | 32 |
| ECTS | | | |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Teaching strategy | Lessons will take place in the classroom, using the support of a projector, and will be presented as PowerPoint slideshow. | | |

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| | 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 the direct application and learning of the behavioural modification techniques. |
| Expected learning outcomes | |
| Knowledge and understanding on: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic knowledge of the different type of learning in the domestic species and the principles of the behavioural modification techniques. |
| Applying knowledge and understanding on: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic knowledge of the behavioural modification techniques in the domestic species |
| Soft skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> • 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 behavioural modification techniques in the domestic species • <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students must acquire the correct scientific skills and technical language to provide specialist professional support. • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students must acquire the ability to improve their knowledge independently through further studies by reading specialized texts and scientific literature, as well as through courses, training and by the direct observation of animals and their behaviour. |

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| Assessment and feedback | |
| Methods of assessment | Oral exam. Students must demonstrate technical and in-depth knowledge of several topics of the course program, using scientific terminology and showing critical judgements for the different type of learning in the domestic species and the behavioural modification techniques. |
| Evaluation criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 as well as the different type of learning in the domestic species and the behavioural modification techniques. • <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge about the methodologies and parameters employed for behavioural modification in the domestic species • <i>Autonomy of judgment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are expected to propose critical hypotheses on the causes and factors affecting the expression of companion animal behaviours as well as the possible techniques to employ for behavioural modification • <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are expected to critically and independently discuss the issues addressed in the course program ○ Students are expected to make connections between the different topics of the course program • <i>Communication skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are expected to discuss the program topics with appropriate scientific and technical language |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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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