

28402 - Ethnology & Animal Welfare

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2023/24

Subject: 28402 - Ethnology & Animal Welfare

Faculty / School: 105 - Facultad de Veterinaria

Degree: 451 - Degree in Veterinary Science

ECTS: 9.0

Year: 1

Semester: Annual

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

Ethnology

Ethnology provides students with the practical knowledge necessary to approach the study of other subjects of the Degree in Veterinary Medicine, both basic and specialized, and will provide the keys to start shaping the students professional character as veterinarians. Learning about animal breeds is a good introduction to animal production and to the professional reality, so that the subject plays an essential role in the training of the future veterinarian.

Objectives: The student should be able to identify the breed of an animal and its aptitude or usefulness, as well as have sufficient ability to make a value judgment on productive or morphostructural information of any important animal breed, in the main domestic species. In addition, they will be able to understand and comprehend the lexicon that defines breeds and their variation in skin appendages, morphology and productivity, know the most important identification methods and make decisions about their usefulness in specific situations, and will be able to know different basic aspects of animal management.

Animal Welfare

The subject addresses the new concept of animal welfare (AW) in the context of agro-ecosystems and its socioeconomic implications in the EU. It studies the physiological basis of AW. It relates AW to product quality and animal welfare assessment systems. It reviews the current AW legislation using case studies. It analyses the critical points for animal welfare and its alternatives in agroecosystems. It addresses pet animal welfare and the human-animal relationship. It addresses the issue of animal violence. It describes normal dog and cat behaviour and its alterations.

The Subject of Ethnology and Animal Welfare, in the context of UNIZAR's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included in the United Nations Agenda 2030, emphasizes goals 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 15 of that agenda.

2. Learning results

Ethnology

1. To be able to identify the breed of an animal (within the main breeds or breed groups) and its suitability or usefulness.
2. To have sufficient ability to make a value judgment on morpho-structural productive information of any important animal breed, in any domestic species.
3. To understand the lexicon that defines breeds and their variation in skin appendages, morphology and productivity.
4. To understand the need for animal identification and the usefulness of the methods available for this purpose.
5. To be capable of knowing different basic aspects of animal management.

Animal Welfare

1. To critically assess and judge the social problems of animal welfare in the EU in the context of an agro-ecosystem and other animals under human responsibility.
2. To explain and argue about the ethical commitment of the veterinarian in the aspects related to animal welfare in the context of the European legislation.
3. To understand the human-animal bond and the role of the veterinarian in the recognition and prevention of cases of animal and family violence.
4. To define animal welfare and describe the basic concepts related to it from a European perspective.
5. To describe the physiological basis of the adaptation syndrome (stress) of domestic animals, its biological cost and consequences for physical and mental health.
6. To relate animal welfare to product quality by integrating welfare into a new concept of quality within the production system.
7. To describe animal welfare assessment systems in a generic way, being able to indicate valid, reliable and feasible animal welfare criteria.
8. To know the basics of current animal welfare legislation and how to apply it to specific case studies.
9. To describe in a generic way the most intensive production systems with the highest risk for animal welfare, indicating their critical points and proposing viable production alternatives or partial modifications to the existing ones, oriented to improve animal welfare.
10. To assess and differentiate between normal and altered behaviour in dogs and cats.
11. To recognize the critical points on which to act to improve the welfare of pets in the context of the interspecific family group.
12. To recognize the critical points for the welfare of non-domestic animals in captivity.

3. Syllabus

ETHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTORY TOPICS

Subject introduction and definitions.

Systematics of racial classification. Baron.

Physiozootechnical indexes (reproductive, exploitation and productive).

Productive cases (problems).

Identification in livestock species (natural, technified and artificial).

Identification in livestock species

MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL PECULIARITIES

Small ruminants.

Equids.

Birds.

RACIAL DIFFERENTIATION.

Equine species. (Introduction, large breeds, other breeds, donkeys and hybrids).

Bovine species. (Introduction to the species, world breeds by aptitude, Spanish breeds).

Keys to breed differentiation in cattle.

Sheep species. (Introduction, world breeds by racial types, Spanish breeds).

Keys to breed differentiation in sheep.

Goat species. (Introduction to the species, world breeds by aptitude, Spanish breeds).

Keys to breed differentiation in goats

Swine species. (Introduction, hybridization, world breeds, Spanish breeds).

Keys to breed differentiation in swine.

Rabbits. (Introduction, racial classification).

Keys to breed differentiation in rabbits.

Farm poultry. (Introduction, racial classification within the main species).

Keys to breed differentiation in farm poultry.

Canine species. (Introduction: Basic aspects).

Keys differentiation of racial groups in dogs.

Feline species (Introduction and main breeds).

Keys to racial differentiation of cats.

Thematic program on animal welfare (contained in the "Animal Welfare Manual", 144 pp.)

Topic I Animal Welfare (AW): concepts and assessment

I.1 Animal welfare in the context of the agro-ecosystem

I.2 Ethics and animal welfare. Lines of thought.

I.3 The human-animal bond. Importance of anamnesis and veterinary advice.

I.4 Animal violence and abuse. Role of the veterinarian.

I.5 Animal welfare and market

I.6 Ethology and animal welfare

I.7 Problems arising from stabling

I.8 Relationship between production and animal welfare

I.9 Genetic selection for productivity and animal welfare

II Animal welfare: adaptive response and definition

II.1 Biological cost of adaptation

II.3 Definitions of animal welfare

III Animal welfare assessment

III.1 Multi-criteria approach

III.2 Levels of action

III.3 Animal welfare indicator groups: Stress sensitivity thresholds

III.4 The EU Welfare Quality System

III.5 Animal welfare as a production objective

III.6 Categorization of production systems

IV Aspects Common to all systems. Transportation

IV.1 Transport and animal welfare

IV.2 Transportation as accommodation.

IV.3 Animal transport regulations in the EU

IV.4 Critical points in animal transport. Ventilation

IV.5 Natural livestock management

IV.6 Strategies for natural livestock management

IV.7 Mode of vision and management of livestock

IV.8 Factors affecting transportation stress

V. Concepts. Fear reaction

V.1 Definition of fear and terminology

V.2 Measuring fear

V.3 Determinants of fear

VI Concept of pain

VI.1 Definition of pain

VI.2 Measurement of pain behaviour

VII Concepts. Suffering

VII.1 Definition of suffering

VII.2 Sensory and cognitive abilities. Implications

VII.3 Recognition and valuation of suffering

VIII. Stress and meat quality

VIII.1 Consequences of pre-slaughter management

VIII.2 Effect of stress on meat quality

VIII.3 Postmortem metabolic changes

VIII.4 Meat defects due to stress

IX Slaughter.

IX.1 The slaughter process

IX.2 Ante-mortem inspection

IX.3 Stunning and slaughtering

IX.4 Stunning and slaughter control systems. The animal welfare officer.

X. Description of some intensive production systems: critical points for the AW*

X. 1 The battery layer system.

X.2 The intensive broiler meat production system

X.3 The pork production system

X.4 Intensive dairy cattle production systems

X. 5 Intensive beef cattle production system (feed lot)

X. 6 The intensive sheep meat production system (special reference to Aragón)

XI. Livestock and greenhouse gas emissions (GGELS). Relationship with the AW

XII. Applied canine and feline ethology

Animal welfare aspects in pets.

Animal welfare aspects of captive non-domestic animals (Zoo and similar)

*The systems are briefly described with special emphasis on the most critical aspects for the AW. Due to time constraints, we have had to prioritize the most intensive systems, especially those that have been the subject of specific legislation. Depending on availability, efforts will also be made to address systems such as aquaculture or rabbit production, which will be the subject of specific AW legislation in the near future.

4. Academic activities

Ethnology

Theoretical face-to-face classes, in which the program will be developed, complemented with other teaching resources (CD, leaflets, typed sheets). Practical class of racial differentiation, participative and prepared by the students in all species, always with the corresponding advice of the teachers of the subject. Classroom practice of production problems and individual identification. Classes on handling of 3 livestock species, in which we will also review aspects of morphology and animal identification.

Animal welfare

Use of Unizar Digital Teaching Ring (Anillo Digital Docente). Theoretical face-to-face classes. Practical classes with animals to evaluate AW. Case studies to solve. Group field work. Theoretical and practical classes in the classroom. Previous viewing of videos related to the theoretical classes to be taught (English). Face-to-face and telematic tutoring. E-mail contact with the teacher throughout the academic year.

5. Assessment system

Ethnology

Handling practices: attendance.

Theory and practical racial identification: theoretical exams (multiple-choice, wrong answers will subtract points): 4 wrongly answered questions subtract 1 well answered question) and practical exams (racial differentiation by audiovisual means). Each of these aspects will be valued respectively with 5 and 3 points out of 10. In the theoretical part the student must obtain a grade equivalent to 5. In the practical part the grade must be equivalent to 6.

The remaining 2 points (2 out of 10) are acquired by the results of the continuous assessment (2 points). This continuous assessment includes the evaluation of the practices, and the results of evaluation exercises carried out in class.

Animal Welfare

Theoretical exam (60%): consisting of a multiple-choice test, with 4 options per question (only one of them valid) and applying a random correction coefficient of 25%. The maximum grade for this exam is 6 points and is passed with a grade equal to or higher than 3 (50%).

Work assessment (40%): Six case studies. Self-study based on real animal welfare cases on topics presented in class, reviewing AW legislation. The student will receive the case, solve it and then attend a 1 hour class with the teacher responsible for the case study for its final resolution. Total 1 point (0.166 each).

Field work on a current topic in animal welfare based in the City of Zaragoza. Animal welfare surveys in groups of 3-4 people. Conduct the surveys, process the data using a computer application and prepare a corresponding report. All the data from the subject will be used to produce a poster that will be exhibited publicly at the faculty. Work done throughout the term in groups of 3-4 students (1.5 points).

Ethological observation fieldwork. Application of behavioural recording and analysis methods learned in the classroom with video, on a species chosen by the group. Design of the study, methodology, recording of observed behavioural data, analysis and preparation of the report. Work done throughout the term with the help of the teacher in charge in groups of 3-4 students (1.5 points).

Total grade for papers: 4 points. They will only be added to the final grade for animal welfare when 50% of the grade on the theory exam is obtained.

On-farm animal welfare assessment practices: On-site evaluation at the end of the practices and mandatory attendance. Dog training practice: On-site evaluation at the end of the practices and compulsory attendance

Classroom practice: recording and analysis of animal behaviour (attendance and practice notebook). Seminar by invitation on a current topic in animal welfare: attendance and discussion.

Final grade in animal welfare = theoretical exam (60%) + assignments (40%).

Example: a student who obtains a 4 in the theoretical exam (out of 6) and a 2 for assignments (out of 4), will have a final grade in animal welfare of 6 (out of 10).

Tests for non-face-to-face students: there will be a theoretical and practical exam that will cover everything that has been taught in the subject (theory and practice) of Ethnology and Animal Welfare. The assessment criteria and the level of demand for non-face-to-face students will be: theoretical part (60%) and the practical part (40%). The exam will be adapted to the syllabus of the respective academic year.