



GP CERTIFICATE ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR THERAPY SYLLABUS

Understand the origins of behaviour in the cat and dog

Understand the domestication of the dog and cat

Understand the normal behaviour of the dog and cat.

Clinical causes of behaviour problems

Understand the breadth of medical conditions causing or contributing to behaviour problems in the cat and dog

Understand the range of social and environmental causes of behaviour problems in the cat and dog

Understand how to relate events in the animal's life with the development of behaviour problems

Understand how to take a history and the meaning of each component of that history

Be aware of how to make the distinction between clinical and social/environmental causes of behaviour problems

Aggression in companion animals I

Understand the causes and principles of dealing with aggression in dogs and cats in all contexts

Be aware of safety aspects in aggression problems

Be aware of general and specific approaches to aggression to owners, intraspecific aggression, barrier behaviours, aggression to children, predatory behaviour.

To engage in the discussion of actual behaviour cases and prepare plans for the patients

Aggression in companion animals II

Understand the causes and principles of dealing with aggression in dogs and cats in all contexts.

Be aware of safety aspects in aggression problems

Be aware of general and specific approaches to aggression to owners, intraspecific aggression, barrier behaviours, aggression to children, predatory behaviour.

To engage in the discussion of actual behaviour cases and prepare plans for the patients

Anxiety and conflict in companion animals

To understand the causes of fear, anxiety, phobias and compulsive disorders in dogs and cats.

To understand and be able to apply the principles involved in dealing with fear, anxiety and phobia in dogs and cats

To understand specific approaches to problems such as separation problems, noise phobias, desensitisation, tail chasing, self-mutilation, spraying and toileting problems.

To understand the development and complexity of compulsive disorders

To understand the principles involved in treating compulsive disorders

To engage in the practical examination of actual behaviour cases/discussion of cases

Behaviour modifying medication nutraceuticals, pheromone therapy and complementary therapies for behaviour problems

To be aware of the range of behaviour modifying drugs available to the veterinary profession

To understand the principles involved in using these drugs

To understand some specifics about these medications

To understand how and when they should be used.

To be aware of alternative and complementary treatments for behaviour problems

To understand the range of ways in which these may work

To understand the safety and welfare implications of using both behaviour modifying drugs and alternatives

Pain as a cause of behavioural problems: recognize, assess and treat

Introduction to pain

- How chronic pain compares with acute pain
- Neurophysiology of acute and chronic pain
- Classifications of pain
- Distinction between pain and suffering

How pain manifests as a behavioural problem:

- Aggression

- Anxiety and fear
- Compulsive disorders
- Miscellaneous/bizarre

Recognition of pain as a cause of behavioral problems:

- General distinction between social/environmental and clinical causes
- Pain specific clues in the dog
- Pain specific clues in the cat

Causes of pain in the cat and dog likely to manifest as behavioural problems

- Musculoskeletal
- Neurological
- Visceral
- Oral/aural/dermatological

Assessment of pain:

- Current status of assessment techniques
- Triangulation
- Palpation techniques
- Gait/ muscular development/movement/posture

Treatment of chronic pain;

- Devising a treatment plan
- Outcome measures
- Pharmacological interventions
- Physical therapies

Clinical causes of behavioural problems – update and approaches

Behavioural manifestations of, approaches to and case examples of:

- Pseudo pregnancy – pre and post neutering
- Hepato portal shunts
- Dietary sensitivity/IBD
- Testosterone related challenges
- Endocrine problems

Behavioural manifestations of, approaches to and case examples of:

- Neurological disease, including complex partial seizure; Chiari synringomyelia; space occupying lesions
- Iatrogenic
- Canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD)
- Miscellaneous

Behavioural approaches to solving clinical problems:

- Delivering treatments to difficult/fearful patients

- Desensitizing fearful patients to the practice
- The aggressive patient – potential pitfalls with tackling the owner and approaching the problem