

# NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:** Introduction to Veterinary Technology

**Course #:** VET\* 101

**Course Description:** 3 credits. This course is an introduction to veterinary science. The profession and employment opportunities for veterinary technicians are presented. The principles of animal health and the prevention of disease are emphasized. Common illnesses, vaccination protocols, basic nutrition and animal reproduction are discussed. Fall semester.

**Pre-requisites:** MAT\*137, BIO\*121 (or BIO\*115 if taken prior to Fall 2012), CHE\*111, and CSA\*105

**Goals:** This course will introduce the student to veterinary medicine and the opportunities related to veterinary science.

**Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course the student will:

- Describe the role of the veterinary technician on the veterinary health team
- Recognize and explain basic anatomy and physiology
- Describe how a physical examination is performed and know the *vital signs* for various species
- Discuss basic principles of nutrition and apply them to nutritional requirements
  - Appraise the role that nutrition plays in treating and preventing metabolic and endocrine disease
  - Evaluate an overweight animal's diet and determine a proper diet
  - Recognize the common prescription diets and what conditions they are used for
  - Compare and contrast the dietary requirements of animals of different life stages and different stages of reproduction
  - Describe the unique nutritional requirements of cats
  - Calculate the caloric needs of an animal
  - Discuss vitamins and minerals
- Describe common illnesses and identify common parasites seen in companion animals
- Discuss preventive health care for common domestic species and recommend vaccination schedules for various species
  - Differentiate the appropriate SQ and IM injection sites for various species
  - Formulate worming schedules for common domestic species
  - Explain the difference between a core vaccine and a recommended vaccine
- Explain the basic principles of immunology and vaccines and how they are handled, reconstituted, administered and recorded.
  - Compare and contrast modified live versus killed vaccines

- Define passive immunity, acquired immunity, and explain the difference between natural and acquired immunity.
- Explain the need to protect oneself from disease in the workplace, including safe handling and disposal of biological and therapeutic agents and hazardous waste.
- Differentiate zoonotic diseases, vector species, and modes of transmission
- To be able to discuss basic principles of animal reproduction and to know the major differences between species
  - Explain the estrous cycle, and describe signs of estrus in common domestic species
  - Recognize normal and abnormal behaviors associated with estrus and reproduction
- Illustrate the importance of effective written and oral communication between members of the veterinary health team and their clients.