

Companion Animals

18108

Rationale Statement:

Urban and all rural students desire training in all areas of animal care. Careers in the small animal industry are growing quickly. Companion Animals is a course designed for urban and small acreage dwellers requiring the same knowledge as a larger livestock producer, but on a smaller scale. Major animals studied in the Companion Animals course are dogs, cats, horses, guinea pigs, gerbils, fish, amphibians, reptiles, rabbits, etc. Classroom and laboratory content may be enhanced by utilizing appropriate equipment and technology. Mathematics, English, biology and human relations skills will be reinforced in the course. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course are school-based enterprises, field trips and internships. Opportunities for application of clinical and leadership skills are provided by participation in FFA activities, conferences and skills competition. Each student will be expected to complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program.

Suggested grade level: 9th – 12th

Topics covered:

- Companion animal classification
- Companion animal reproduction
- Companion animal diet and nutrition
- Feed rations
- Animal performance
- Working with companion animals
- Companion animal housing and equipment

Indicator #1: Examine the anatomy and physiology of animals in a domesticated or natural environment.

Bloom's Taxonomy Level	Standard and Examples
Applying	<p>CA 1.1 Use classification systems to explain the anatomy and physiology of companion animals.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categorize types of companion animals. • Identify classifications of companion animals. • Identify exotic animals. • Identify sex of companion animals.
Analyzing	<p>CA 1.2 Differentiate between different species' reproductive cycles.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the pros and cons of breeding through natural cover and artificial insemination. • Identify spay and neutering an animal. • Identify reproduction management practices.
Analyzing	<p>CA 1.3 Analyze elements in the reproductive cycle to explain differences between male and female reproductive systems.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the parts of male and female reproductive tracts on example animals. • Analyze the reproductive cycle of a given animal. • Appraise animal readiness for breeding.

Indicator #2: Evaluate an animal's diet to provide proper nutrition and optimal performance.

Bloom's Taxonomy Level	Standard and Examples
Evaluating	<p>CA 2.1 Evaluate an animal's developmental stage to comprehend differences in nutrient requirements throughout the animal's life cycle.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appraise the different phases of an animal's life cycle. • Judge diets to provide the appropriate quantity of nutrients for each animal developmental. • Experiment with food preference in small animals.
Analyzing	<p>CA 2.2 Analyze a feed ration to determine whether it fulfills a given animal's nutrient requirements.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the differences between good and poor feedstuffs. • Analyze a balanced ration for a given animal. • Complete a Pearson Square.

Indicator #3: Demonstrate techniques for optimal care of a companion animal.

Bloom's Taxonomy Level	Standard and Examples
Applying	<p>CA 3.1 Recognize optimum performance for a given animal species.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign proper kennel, hutch or facility for a given animal. • Compare reasons why some animals perform better than others. • Write breed associations to obtain the breed standards.
Evaluating	<p>CA 3.2 Judge an animal's behavior to safely work with it.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform safe handling procedures when working with animals. • Evaluate normal animal behavior. • Restrain and control animals.

Applying	<p>CA 3.3 Employ a program to develop an animal to its highest potential.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify proper washing, drying and grooming of animal.• Properly fit collars, halters and restraining tack.• Practice preventative medicine.• Apply first aid to an animal.• Identify diseases and parasites and control-prevention methods.
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