

Ref. No.	C –AWSEL.1
Title:	Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law Introduction and Theory
Category and value:	C - 10 credits
Notional study hours:	100

Candidates working towards the designated Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice should refer to the modular combinations document which can be found on the RCVS website.

Standards

The aim of this module is to enable the candidate to extend and consolidate clinical knowledge and skills gained at undergraduate level, and to develop an in-depth understanding of the application of that knowledge in a practice environment in relation to Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law (AWSEL).

Area covered

The module is intended to be a broad introduction to the AWSEL subjects. It is relevant for those who are following other disciplines and wish to obtain a broad overview of the AWSEL subject. It can be undertaken with any species specialty, but the module requires reflection on the application of broad principles across a range of species. This module also provides the basis for further study for those planning to enrol for C-AWSEL.2 – Applying the Theory, where the theory learnt in this module will be applied in the field of work.

Assessment strategy for this module

It is suggested that this module could be assessed by the following methods:

Candidates will be required to illustrate welfare problems and their attitude to welfare in not less than 15 and not more than 20 of a broad range of case exposures to show that they are perceiving ethical and legal dilemmas in the course of their professional experience (including 'seeing practice' for the purposes of the qualification).

The case exposure should cover a broad range of animal care, animal 'use', and species.

Candidates should consider providing at least **one** case from each of the following examples, bearing in mind that within one species there may be more than one use. Some examples of the areas of animal 'use' would include:

Farming (dairy, beef, sheep, pigs, poultry, deer, 'exotics' – e.g. ostrich, buffalo)
Laboratory animals
Zoo or circus animals
Companion (dog, cat, bird)
Wild animals
Horses

Format for case exposures

Case exposures can be done in any jurisdiction. However, candidates must demonstrate an understanding of UK law. Each case exposure should consist of not more than **one** paragraph under the sub headings listed below, and should be set out as follows:

Candidates should provide an index of case exposures at the front, giving the case exposure number, the species and a brief title.

Case No.

Date.

Sub-headings:

Presenting problem

Underlying cause

Action taken

Outcome

Clinical/Ethical/Welfare/Behavioural comment

Law

RCVS can provide copies of sample case exposures covering small and large animals for guidance [can Edinburgh have copies?].

Module content

At the end of the module, candidates should:

- Have a knowledge of the various definitions of animal welfare and a working understanding of the main models of animal welfare.
- Have a knowledge of the methodologies used to measure animal welfare including physiological and behavioural measurements and qualitative behavioural assessment (QBA).
- Be able to show an understanding of how welfare impact is determined in individuals and groups of animals.
- Be able to show basic knowledge of the main consequentialist and non-consequentialist theories of ethics.
- Be aware of, and have a working understanding of, the most widely used ethical frameworks (Five Freedoms, Five Welfare Domains and Three Rs).
- Have a basic understanding of how ethical decisions are made, including awareness of stakeholder positions.

- Be aware of, and have a broad understanding of, professional ethics, principally the RCVS guide to professional conduct.
- Have a basic knowledge of regulatory law including the role of the veterinary surgeon in regulatory law.
- Have a basic understanding of anticruelty law including the 1911 (1912 Scotland) Act and the Animal Welfare Act(s), and understand the role of the expert witness.
- Be aware of other legislation that impacts on animal welfare such as Abandonment of Animals Act and Performing Animals Act.
- Show an understanding of the concept of 'duty of care'.

Underpinning knowledge

Animal Welfare Science

Definitions and working models of welfare

- Biological systems-based definitions
- Feelings-based definitions
- Combinations

Methodologies

- Physiological measurements
 - Plasma concentrations of various biochemical and hormonal indicators e.g. corticosteroid concentrations (salivary corticosteroid and faecal corticosteroid concentrations)
 - adrenal sensitisation
 - Sympathetic activation
- Behavioural measurements
 - Importance of appreciation of normal behaviour (ethograms)
 - Normal behaviour at abnormal frequencies
 - Normal behaviour in abnormal contexts (displacement/redirected behaviour)
 - Abnormal behaviour (stereotypic behaviour)
- Qualitative Behavioural Assessment (QBA)
- Assessment methods 'at the coal face'

Welfare impact

- Numbers x severity x duration
- Examples of studies and surveys that bring these elements together and inform legislators and other stakeholders

Ethics

Introduction to theories

- Two main schools – consequence and non-consequence based theory
- Consequence based theory
 - Utilitarianism
- Non-consequence based theory
 - Deontology
 - Virtue
 - Rights
 - Contract
 - Natural law
 - Four principles

Frameworks

- Three Rs
- Five Freedoms
- Five Domains
- Aspects of healthcare ethics in humans
- Decision-making processes
- Awareness of stakeholder positions
- Professional ethics
- RCVS guide to professional conduct

Law

- Role of vet in enforcement (duty of enforcer)
- Anticruelty laws
- Major legislation e.g. 1911(1912), 1968
- Animal Welfare Act(s)
- Expert witness
- Regulatory law e.g. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act
- Awareness of other law e.g. abandonment, performing, zoo, pet shop, dog breeding
- Duty of care