

Ref. No.	C –AWSEL.2
Title:	Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law Applying the Theory
Category And Value:	C - 10 credits
Notional Study Hours:	100

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

Standards

The aim of the 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 theory studied in the C-AWSEL.1 module – Introduction and Theory - will be applied in the candidate's field of work in this module. Attainment of the two modules will provide a suitable basis for further study, as well as being a requirement for candidates studying for the designated Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (AWSEL).

Assessment strategy for this module

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

Candidates should submit **THREE** case reports (each case report should not exceed 3,500 words) which reflect the range of each case to take in all three aspects of the subject, i.e. ethics (professional person to person ethical use and abuse of animals), welfare science and law. Candidates may submit one or more cases based on work originating overseas. However, candidates must be able to provide parallels with the UK system and how it is implemented. Candidates will be required to contact a law adviser.

Candidates should demonstrate sufficient competence in all three areas of Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law over the **THREE** case reports, although case reports which emphasise primarily one of these three aspects are permissible.

One of the cases may be theoretical but must have a practical starting point, and the candidate **must** have visited a system. For example, a case might be based on the pros and cons of keeping hens in cages, as well as on real life cases and **must** follow a visit to see a system, e.g. a poultry farm.

Format of case reports

Preparation of each report should follow a clear format. In most cases the report can be structured according to the classic form of a scientific paper.

- **Introduction**

- Definition of the problem

Analysis:

impact on animal welfare
relevant law, guidelines, welfare codes
ethics

- **Methods of investigation**

Observations, actions taken and outcome

- **Discussion**

Welfare assessment
Owner's perspective/viewpoint/beliefs
Legal aspects
Alternative investigations which could have been made
Alternative strategies which could have been adopted
Ethical analysis and ethical dilemmas

Candidates will be required to take account of ethical considerations and ethical conflicts, as well as legal and scientific aspects of animal welfare. Case reports should include references to the body of literature which exists in all these areas.

- **Summary and conclusions**

- **References**

Appendices, e.g. videos (max 15 mins), clinical laboratory data, necropsy reports and law case reports.

The 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 be able to:

- Consolidate and apply the knowledge of animal welfare science gained in the introductory module to the issues and dilemmas encountered in practice.
- Develop further understanding of the methodologies and demonstrate a deeper understanding of the principal methods used, including shortcomings and interpretation.
- Apply existing ethical frameworks to animal welfare challenges, and be able to construct an ethical decision-making framework using ethical theory and apply it to the analysis of presenting problems, or to justify outcomes and opinions.
- Appreciate how statute law is formulated and applied and understand the concepts of common law and precedent. Be familiar with the lobbying, consultative and representational processes.

- Show thorough familiarity with the principal animal protection laws in the UK, and demonstrate knowledge of international legislation and regulation such as EU law, GATT, WTO.

Underpinning knowledge

Animal Welfare Science

Further methodologies

- Behaviour (critical appraisal of motivational testing, rebound behaviour)
- Behaviour – stereotypes (redirected behaviour)
- Behaviour as an indicator of poor or good welfare
- Behaviour plus others e.g. response to analgesia (Flecknell work)
- Problems of using HPA activation as a measure
- Neuroscience (spinal responses e.g. to pain, receptor upregulation, neuropharmacology, nociceptive threshold changes)
- Self administration of analgesics (rats, chickens)
- 'triangulation' (e.g. behaviour plus hormonal response plus neurology)
- How to critically appraise welfare science literature

'Applying science' (Assessment in the field)

- Morton and Griffiths, and other 'pain'-scoring systems
- Lameness scores
- Critical appraisal
- Providing for good welfare (space allowances, enrichment, companionship, behavioural needs versus 'wants')

Welfare impact

- Perception issues (farmer underestimation of issues in some species versus third party observation, public perception, underestimation of incidence (e.g. cattle lameness))
- The need to measure incidence and prevalence for effective management
- Awareness of issues
 - Companion animals (behaviour, breeding including genetic defects, cruelty)
 - Production animals (dairy, broiler, laying hens, fish, sheep, pigs, etc.)
 - Sport (and performing) animals (horses, greyhounds, etc.)
 - Utility animals (hearing dogs, guide dogs, etc)
 - Non species-specific issues such as transport, slaughter and housing

Ethics

Application of frameworks (Five Freedoms, Five Domains, Three Rs)

Decision making and justifying decisions

How to formulate a decision tree/grid/chart and apply it

Law

Regulatory law

- Further details e.g. ASPA, 1986 Regulations and how these are implemented and applied
- The role of the vet in regulation
- Further details on transport and slaughter,
- Animal Welfare Act(s)
- EU law and Directives including how these are transposed to UK law

- EU law and lobbying/representation
- The Council of Europe
- GATT and WTO