Applied Learning (Senior Secondary Level)

2016-18 Cohort

Item	Description
1. Subject Title	Animal Care
2. Course Provider	School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong
3. Area of Studies/ Course Cluster	Applied Science/Medical Science and Health Care
4. Medium of Instruction	English
5. Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students should be able to: (1) describe the different roles of animals within society; (2) apply animal welfare principles and science knowledge to provide daily care to meet animals' needs; (3) discuss the responsibilities, ethics and safety precautions of animal care practitioners; (4) formulate basic care plans according to the needs of individual animals; (5) apply reflection on experiences to enhance learning and practice in animal care; (6) demonstrate communication and interpersonal skills in the field of animal care; and (7) develop self-understanding for further studies and career development in the related field.

6. Curriculum Map – Organisation and Structure

1. Animals and Society (21 hours)
- 1 An overview of animal care
- 2 Animal types & groups
  - ○ Biological classification
  - ○ Social classification
  - ○ Wildlife
  - ○ Domestication
- 3 Human-animal interactions
  - ○ Roles of animals in society
  - ○ Human-animal bonds
  - ○ Factors influencing interactions and bonds
  - ○ Current issues in human-animal interactions

Reinforce & integrate

2. Animal Welfare (21 hours)
- 1 Principles of animal welfare
  - ○ Key considerations
  - ○ 5 Freedoms
  - ○ 5 Needs
  - ○ Scientific investigations
- 2 Basic animal welfare ethics
  - ○ What does ethics mean?
  - ○ How do you make ethical decisions?
- 3 Animal protection codes, regulations & laws

Reinforce & integrate

3. Applied Science Knowledge (36 hours)
- 1 Basic applied animal anatomy & physiology
- 2 Basic animal behaviour
  (focus species: dogs and cats)

Apply knowledge, principles & understanding

4. Animals in Hong Kong (21 hours)
- 1 Animals in different settings
- 2 Field trip: assessment of care needs of animals in authentic context
- 3 Career options & development in working with animals

Apply knowledge, principles & understanding

5. Animal Care Needs and Husbandry (81 hours)
- 1 Health and safety in animal workplace
- 2 Animal care planning
- 3 Husbandry knowledge & skills
  - ○ Species identification
  - ○ Animal life-stages
  - ○ Animal training
  - ○ Housing & accommodation
  - ○ Cleaning & disinfection
  - ○ Provision of enrichment
  - ○ Nutrition & feeding
  - ○ Basic grooming (brushing & bathing)
  - ○ Prevention of disease & zoonosis
  - ○ Basic animal first aid
  - ○ Health monitoring & record keeping
  - ○ Responsible Pet Ownership initiative

7. The Context

- The information on possible study and career pathways is provided to enhance students' understanding of the wider context of the specific Applied Learning course. Students who have successfully completed Applied Learning courses have to meet other entry requirements as specified by the institutions.
- The recognition of Applied Learning courses for admission to further studies and career opportunities is at the discretion of relevant institutions. The Education Bureau and the course providers of Applied Learning are exploring and seeking recognition related to further education and career development opportunities for students successfully completing the Applied Learning courses.

Possible further study and career pathways

Further studies

- e.g. Veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing, biosciences/life sciences, environmental science, food science, biomedical sciences

Career development

- Various levels of jobs/entry points in animal care/health care depending on qualifications attained in further studies (e.g. Veterinarian, veterinary nurse, veterinary assistant, animal care assistant, animal keeper, laboratory veterinary attendant)

Relations with core subjects and other elective subjects

Enhancing and enriching, e.g.

- The study of applied animal anatomy and physiology enhances and extends student learning of the human body in **Biology** and I**ntegrated Science/Combined Science** by allowing them for comparisons.

Cross-fertilization, e.g.

- The concept in animals being classified/grouped in different ways can be related with the knowledge and understanding acquired in **Biology** and **Geography**.
- The concepts and theories of ethics in **Ethics and Religious Studies** may be applied in animal welfare ethics.

Consolidating and synergising students' studies, e.g.

- Animal Care course provides a multi-disciplinary context and practical activities to allow students to reflect on their learning, so that they develop generic knowledge and skills which they can apply in their studies of other subjects.

Cluster of professions/trades/industries related to the course

- Veterinary clinical services, zoological institutions/wildlife parks, animal shelters & non-government organisations, veterinary diagnostic laboratory, animal research laboratory, medical equipment (e.g. vital signs monitors, intravenous fluid pumps, diagnostic imagining equipment)/specialist products (e.g. scientific/prescription diets), animal care services (e.g. behaviour, training, grooming, boarding, day care), animal-related trading (e.g. animal breeding & trading, pet shop, pet care supplies, pet food)

Future global and local outlook

Growing demand for understanding of animals and their care as results of:

- Increases in popularity in keeping pets and diversity of animal species owned/kept in captivity in Hong Kong
- Greater concern for animal health and welfare on both household and community levels
- Greater awareness for the interface and interdependence between animals, people and society
- Heightened awareness for public health (e.g. rabies, avian influenza, severe acute respiratory syndrome) and environmental issues (e.g. arising from urban developments)
- Greater demand for safe food to feed a growing global human population

The global and local outlook is such that there need to be workers with training in animal-related disciplines to work with other workers in other disciplines (as such as human healthcare, environmental science, conservation, economics, social science, law, engineering, computer science) to tackle and prevent issues and problems arising from the points above.

Beginners' skill set to facilitate entry to further studies and/or work

- Understand animals and a broad spectrum of their relations with people/roles in society
- Acquire animal handling, pet care, basic animal nursing and laboratory knowledge and skills
- Understand the importance of law, ethical issues and social responsibility of working/interacting with animals in any capacity or role within society.
- Be aware of the importance of effective communication with people when working with animals
- Identify the aptitudes and professional behaviours required to work in the animal-related fields and industries
- Develop a personal roadmap to progress to different areas & levels of qualification

Relations with other areas of studies/ courses of Applied Learning

Business, Management and Law

- This subject can inspire business ideas & opportunities in the animal care industry

Services

- Effective communication, team work, client care and after-sales support are applicable in the health care industry

Foundation knowledge developed in basic education and Secondary 4

This subject is built upon the foundation knowledge students acquired in, e.g.

- **Mathematics Education** – calculation and data coordination
- **English Language Education** – writing, listening and speaking skills
- **Personal, Social and Humanities Education** – mutual respect, social responsibility, community living
- **Science Education** – fundamental scientific concepts and biological processes
- **Technology Education** – information search, word & data processing, making presentations
- **Liberal Studies** – self & personal development, society & culture, science technology & the environment