

## PG CABW 2025-2027

### PRELIMINARY ECTS Clinical Animal Behaviourist

Course programme	Odisee Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare Programme <b>Postgraduate course Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CAB)</b>
Course module title	<b>PG CABW – CAB M3 - The welfare of companion animals</b>
Level of course module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Postgraduate level 6/7</li></ul>
Year of study module is delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic year 2025-2026</li></ul>
Number of ECTS credits allocated to the unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 credits = appr. 100 to 120 study hours</li></ul>
Summary of key learning outcomes of the module	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. An in-depth understanding of the scientific principles, essential definitions and the ethological, psychological, physiological concepts underlying the welfare of companion animals.</li><li>2. Critically appraise concepts and methods used for the evaluation of animal welfare. Evaluate the welfare and methods used to provide or optimise the welfare of companion animals in a broad range of environments.</li></ol>
Specific learning outcomes of the module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will know and understand the subjects covered in this module and be able to:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Articulate an understanding of the concept of animal welfare and the different underlying models.</li><li>2. Identify and critically appraise concepts, methods and welfare indicators used for the evaluation of animal welfare and their practical applications for companion animals.</li><li>3. Evaluate the welfare of dogs and cats in a broad range of environments (including issues in the management and training of animals and occurring in clinical practice).</li><li>4. Evaluate ethical issues arising from assessment of animal welfare and propose practical solutions to professionals and non-professionals to address, alleviate and avoid welfare problems in dogs and cats.</li></ol></li></ul>
Content of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The key ethological, psychological, and physiological concepts of welfare and Quality of Life (QoL).</li><li>• The biology of stress. The basic principles and implications for animal welfare including: neuroendocrine, immune system responses and metabolic consequences of short term and long term stress.</li><li>• Health, pain, the social and non-social environment as stressors.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consequences of genetics, stress and experiences during early development on behaviour and temperament.</li> <li>• Common methods and indicators used to measure welfare of companion animals their positive aspects and limitations and how to use these practically to assess the welfare of dogs and cats.</li> <li>• Sentience and animal welfare, including: cognitive abilities, coping strategies, predictability and control, motivation and demands, feelings and emotions. Awareness, consciousness, and suffering.</li> <li>• Welfare considerations in the management, working and training of dogs and cats and in clinical practice.</li> <li>• Welfare needs and common welfare issues in dogs and cats.</li> <li>• Quality of life of the behavioural patient.</li> </ul>
Planned learning activities and teaching methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distance learning consisting of:</li> <li>○ Recorded lectures</li> <li>○ Reading lists</li> <li>○ Peer-to-peer learning activities</li> <li>○ Self-assessment quizzes</li> </ul>
Assessment methods and criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formative assignment</li> <li>• Oral exam</li> </ul>
Essential study materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course book</li> <li>• Course materials provided by the lecturers.</li> </ul>
Module coordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jolanda Pluijmakers (<a href="mailto:jolanda.pluijmakers@odisee.be">jolanda.pluijmakers@odisee.be</a>) and David Appleby (<a href="mailto:david.appleby@live.com">david.appleby@live.com</a>).</li> </ul>
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