
Veterinary Law & Ethics

An online course by Iowa State University's CVM and Priority Press, Ltd., Yardley, PA

The Veterinary Law & Ethics course provides an in-depth look at many of the legal and ethical subjects that apply to the veterinary profession. It uses real world examples from the every day practice of veterinary medicine to illuminate the subject matter and drive home its learning objectives. Students will experience a variety of instructional methods including: background reading, lecture presentations, case presentations, classroom discussions and professionally-produced videos. This course is organized into seven units available as a single, 15-hour course or in three separate multi-unit modules as illustrated in the chart below. The objectives and viewing times for each unit are as shown.

MODULE 1

Unit 1: Moral, Ethical and Legal Decision Making

- Explain the factors involved in moral, ethical and legal decision making
- Outline the importance that "ethics rounds" play when making choices that will reduce staff disgruntlement and, instead, grow one's leadership skills and stature
- Define the differences between ethical principles and legal requirements
- Find resources available to assist in making these decisions

1.2 hours

Unit 2: Animal Law

- Define "pet," "owner" and "guardian" and be able to articulate the debates associated with each term
- Differentiate between economic and non-economic damages for pet loss
- Clarify the importance of having a knowledge of state and local laws
- Evaluate the implications and usefulness of dangerous dog and animal cruelty laws

4 hours

MODULE 2

Unit 3: Applied Ethics – Relations with Colleagues

- Develop a course of action to take when confronted with potentially negligent veterinary care rendered by colleagues
- Utilize reference materials to develop scripts for approaching colleagues with difficult, potentially adversarial, medical and legal issues
- Find and use the AVMA's Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics

1.2 hours

Unit 4: Introduction to Contract Law

- Outline the elements required to create enforceable contracts
- Describe the role "medical care plans" play as this terminology replaces "estimates"
- Outline remedies for breaches of contracts
- Explain the "law of unjust enrichment" and its application to patient care

1.2 hours

Unit 5: The Legal Use of Veterinary Drugs

- Identify resources to explain FDA, USDA, EPA, DEA and state laws and regulations regarding drug use
- Summarize FDA rules regarding the compounding of medications and risks associated with their use
- Describe the rules for extra-label drug use in food vs. companion animals
- Articulate the legal requirements for a valid V-C-P-R in veterinary drug use
- Identify current legal standards regarding the need for pain management drugs

1.5 hours

MODULE 3

Unit 6: The Law of Professional Negligence

- Articulate the veterinarian's role in preventing zoonotic diseases and liability for not doing so
- Recognize the most common causes of client complaints
- Identify the four elements of a cause of action for negligence
- Explain negligence law's "duty of care" element
- Describe the role that "standards of care" play in proving negligence cases
- Articulate the difficulties proving "proximate causation"
- Recognize how proof of damages impacts case outcomes

3.5 hours

Unit 7: Medical Records

- List the information required to fulfill state board regulations for medical records
- Articulate the business, medical, legal and public relations value of good records
- Demonstrate innovative strategies for management of patient records
- Discuss the ownership, retention and confidentiality requirements for records
- Describe what SHOULD vs. should NOT be entered in medical records
- Explain the value of well written, signed client consent forms
- Discuss the relationship between written records, how they formulate legal "presumptions" and the evidentiary clout this creates for legal defenses

2.5 hours

Course Pricing

Enrollment Type	Course Fee
Modular Course Format: Individuals <i>Option to purchase "Law & Ethics" book for \$50 and/or "Legal Consents" book for \$60 plus \$12 shipping and handling.</i>	\$400 First Module \$320 Subsequent Modules
Full Course: Individuals <i>One each of "Law & Ethics" and "Legal Consents" books included in course fee. Just pay \$12 shipping and handling.</i>	\$850
Full Course: Individual VHMA Members <i>One each of "Law & Ethics" and "Legal Consents" books available at discounted price of \$50 for both plus \$12 shipping and handling.</i>	\$699
Full Course: Two VHMA Members – One Employer <i>One each of "Law & Ethics" and "Legal Consents" books included in course fee. Shipping and handling free.</i>	\$1,200
Full Course: Two Learners – One Employer <i>Two each of "Law & Ethics" and "Legal Consents" books included in course fee. Shipping and handling free.</i>	\$1,400
Full Course: Three or More Learners – One Employer <i>Call for discounted pricing information on the "Law & Ethics" and "Legal Consents" books for large groups.</i>	Starts at \$2,100 Call 215-321-9488 for Large Group Discount Rates

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and see how this trend setting online course works

Standard retail price for *Law & Ethics* book is \$80 and *Legal Consents* is \$117

User Comments

What I liked about the course was its comprehensive nature and the extensive reference notes. I thought the videos were excellent--not only the NBC Dateline one, but also "Paw and Order." The section on record keeping was far more interesting and useful than I thought it would be, and the section on Drug Law was especially good.

Overall, I would recommend the course highly and I certainly think it is worthy of using to help licensees who are sanctioned for record keeping and unprofessional conduct violations or misuse of drugs and are required to obtain CE to fulfill a Board order."

Dr. Chris Runde, President, Maryland State Board of Veterinary Examiners 2011

What you don't know can hurt you, and will. Dr. Wilson's Veterinary Law and Ethics course is one of a kind and delivers valuable information no veterinary professional should be without. The material is presented with user friendly technology allowing you to pace the program to fit your learning style and schedule. Content is revealed with real world examples including veterinary case discussion, legal events, and historical news coverage along with handouts and various other presentation media to keep the course dynamic and engaging.

Michael Jerva, VHMA CVPM Candidate, Practice Manager, Heart of Chelsea Animal Hospital, New York, NY

I am truly thankful that I had the opportunity to complete the online Veterinary Law and Ethics course.... I learned so much from each and every section of the course that I am now confident that when school is finished I will not only have the knowledge necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, I will also have the wisdom necessary to acquire a position as an associate veterinarian and the integrity and savvy necessary to build a strong client base with excellent staff and a profitable practice while serving as a valuable member of my community as well as the veterinary profession.

Cynthia Miller, 2nd year veterinary student, Mississippi State. May 2011

Veterinary law and ethics is an important topic and unfortunately many students don't realize that. I am a huge supporter of the program being in video format online. The content in all of the videos is well explained and the organization of the supplementary materials is superb.

Randall Trzaska, 6th semester St. George's University student. April 2011

This course was a great way to learn about the many things that can go wrong with veterinary practice where staff members are not crossing their "t's" and dotting their "i's." I found ALL of the information extremely useful for my position as Hospital Director.... I think that every person in the veterinary industry should be required to view the modules relating to medical records as well as the "Paw and Order" video so that we can hammer home the extreme value of accurate record keeping and be respectful of lab testing procedures and client communications.

Kim Burrus, VHMA CVPM Candidate, Hospital Director at Cairo Animal Hospital. Highland Park, IL. May 2011



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