

Course and Curriculum Changes Approved by
the College of Veterinary Medicine Faculty

Friday, June 13, 2008

Departments that may be directly impacted by this change have been notified.

These departments are:

Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology, Anatomy & Physiology
and
Clinical Sciences

Department of Clinical Sciences

Title Change and Minor Modification

CS 740 – Small Animal Emergency Medicine Elective

Brief Explanation of Modification:

Title will change from Small Animal Emergency Medicine Elective to Topics in Emergency Medicine

The course has been restructured.

Catalog Description:

CS 740. Topics in Emergency Medicine. (1) II. Presentations of cases in the ICU or cases that were recently seen on emergency. Current literature that is relevant to the case will be discussed. Pr: 3rd-year standing in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Department of Clinical Sciences

New Course Proposed

CS 773 – Introduction to Veterinary Phytotherapy

Brief Outline of course:

Students will be taught the basic principles of phytotherapy and introduced to the diverse range of issues that should be considered when evaluating the risks and benefits of incorporating herbal medicines in veterinary practice. The course will be offered to a relatively small group of students in one-hour long didactic sessions. The following topics will be addressed: (see attached page)

Catalog Description:

CS 773. Introduction to Veterinary Phytotherapy. (1) II. Fundamentals of phytotherapy: traditions of herbal medicine, evaluating research, regulation of products, interactions with conventional drugs, introduction to medical botany, conserving medicinal plant species, issues using medicinal plants within evidence-based veterinary medicine. Pr: AP 770, DMP 801, 3rd year standing in College of Veterinary Medicine.

Faculty member responsible:

Ronette Gehring, BVSc, MMedVet (Pharm), Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology

Conflicts with other courses:

A&P	AP 770 (Pharmacology)
DMP	DMP 801 (Toxicology)

Reasons for the proposed course and how it fits into the curriculum:

Interest in veterinary herbal medicine is increasing both among veterinarians and the general public. This is at least partially attributable to the current trend in some sectors of the population to explore alternative medical approaches for treating chronic disease and improving health and well-being. This trend is also prevalent among clients of veterinary services. Observing a potential to increase the number of services that can be offered to clients, some veterinarians are incorporating phytotherapy in their practices. However, few veterinary graduates receive formal training in herbal medicine. Instead, many become self-taught. The danger of this approach is that, in the absence of a full understanding of the fundamental principles of this treatment modality, veterinarians may not be successful in using herbal medicines in a safe and effective manner. The purpose of this course is not to produce veterinarians who are herbalists. Rather, it is to present the fundamental principles and issues surrounding this medical approach. The veterinary curriculum at Kansas State University strives to foster an evidence-based approach to veterinary medicine in a diverse society. This course fulfills a niche, in that it will provide students, who have an interest in herbal medicine, with a sound foundation on which to explore this treatment modality through further study.

Attachment to # 3

1. Introduction (1 lecture)

Students will be introduced to phytotherapy/herbal medicine. Emphasis will be placed on what this treatment modality IS, and what it IS NOT. Students will also be familiarized with terminology that is specific to herbal medicine.

2. Different traditions of herbal medicine (3 lectures)

This topic will be an introduction to the different traditions of herbal medicine, including ethnoveterinary medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and ayurvedic medicine. Each tradition will be placed within its historical and cultural context and their underlying philosophies will be discussed. Wherever possible, these philosophies will be compared and contrasted with current scientific understanding of the pathophysiology of disease. A brief overview of the history of veterinary pharmacotherapeutics in the United States will also be given, to develop a context for the use of plant-based medicines in modern veterinary medicine.

3. Controversies in herbal medicine (3 lectures)

Offering a skeptical view of herbal medicine, the various challenges that face those who wish to approach phytotherapy in a scientific and evidence-based manner will be presented under this topic. Controversies surrounding the evaluation and design of herbal medicine research, as well as the accessibility of such research, will be discussed. An overview of the regulation and control of herbal products will also be given.

4. The plants (5 lectures)

This topic will serve as an introduction to medical botany. Plant chemistry and the common active compounds found in medicinal plants will be discussed. There will also be a lecture on the potential for intoxication and interactions with conventional drugs. The manufacture of herbal medicines, pharmacy and dosing will be addressed. Attention will also be given to issues surrounding the conservation of medicinal plant species.

5. Clinical use of medicinal plants in veterinary medicine (3 lectures)

The purpose of this topic will be to revise and consolidate the information presented in the course. Students will be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge to the critical appraisal of the available information on a specific herbal medicine that is commonly used in animals. Discussion of the use of herbal medicines in various different domestic animal species will be encouraged. Students will be asked to prepare a short presentation about their chosen herbal medicine, which will also be the basis for assessment of their successful acquisition of the knowledge presented in the course.