

Identification	Subject	VET 378 Animal Psychology, 6 ECTS
	Department	Veterinary Medicine
	Program (Undergraduate, Graduate)	Undergraduate-bachelor
	Term	2026-2027 Fall Semester
	Instructor	Dr. Hilal KURUM
	Email:	hilal.kurum@hasvet.vet
	Classroom/hours	Online
Prerequisites		
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Textbooks and course materials	1. Houpt, K. A. – Domestic Animal Behavior for Veterinarians and Animal Scientists Nəşr ili: 2024 (Fəsil 3-6-7) (səhifə 70-90, 175-190, 205-210) 2. Denenberg, S. – Small Animal Veterinary Psychiatry Nəşr ili: 2024 (Fəsil 1-16) (səhifə 1-395) 3. Overall, K. L. – Manual of Clinical Behavioral Medicine for Dogs and Cats Nəşr ili: 2013(Fəsil 1) (səhifə 1-45) 4. Horwitz, D., Mills, D., Heath, S. – BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine Nəşr ili: 2010 (Fəsil 6-7) (səhifə 65-87) 5. Mills, D. & Marchant-Forde, J. N. (Eds.) – The Encyclopedia of Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare Nəşr ili: 2010 (səhifə 1-1082) 6. Grandin, T. – Livestock Handling and Transport Nəşr ili: 2024 (Fəsil 6) (səhifə 110-125) 7. Horwitz, D. & Neilson, J. – Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult Clinical Companion: Canine and Feline Behavior Nəşr ili: 2013 (Fəsil 45-46-47-48) (səhifə 521-581) 8. Denenberg, S. – Veterinary Psychopharmacology Nəşr ili: 2014 (Fəsil 6-7-8-9) (səhifə 53-146) 9. Calder, C. D. – Veterinary Guide to Preventing Behavior Problems in Dogs and Cats Nəşr ili: 2024 (Fəsil 7) (səhifə 139-154) 10. Cominotti, T. – Dog Psychology: Canine Language Keys to Better Communicate with Your Dog Nəşr ili: 2023 (səhifə 1-131) 11. Ekesbo, I. – Farm Animal Behaviour: Characteristics for Assessment of Health and Welfare Nəşr ili: 2024 (Fəsil 1-4-5-6) (səhifə 11-296) Online vəsaitlər: https://www.merckvetmanual.com/behavior/behavioral-medicine-introduction/overview-of-behavioral-medicine-in-animals https://avsab.org/resources/ https://www.insightfulanimals.com/resources https://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/web/committees-applied-behavior.php https://www.vettechcolleges.com/blog/how-to-become-an-animal-psychologist https://www.acs.edu.au/courses/animal-behaviour-psychology-of-animals-31.aspx https://vetbooks.ir/category/clinical-sciences-books/behavior/ https://www.youtube.com/@FearFreePets	

Course description	This course aims to enable students to understand the normal behavior of companion and farm animals, recognize behavioral disorders, understand their clinical significance, and learn the fundamental approaches to their diagnosis and treatment.
Course objectives	General Objective Animal behavior and psychology are critically important not only for the health and welfare of individual animals but also for public health, safety, and societal well-being. Veterinarians with a comprehensive understanding of animal behavior are better equipped to identify, prevent, and manage behavioral problems, thereby improving the quality of life of both animals and humans. 1. Human–Animal Relationships and Societal Well-Being • Companion animals provide social and emotional support to many individuals and families. • Behavioral problems, including aggression, fear, and separation anxiety, can negatively affect animal welfare while also posing risks to owners and other members of society. • The ability of veterinarians to recognize and appropriately manage behavioral problems can help prevent aggressive incidents, injuries, and animal-related accidents. • Healthy and well-adapted animals contribute to the development and maintenance of positive human–animal relationships within society. 2. Animal Shelters and Stray Animals • Behavioral problems are among the major reasons why companion animals are surrendered to shelters. • Veterinary behavioral specialists can contribute to the rehabilitation of these animals and facilitate their successful rehoming. • Improving animal welfare within the community and reducing the burden on animal shelters can also contribute to the more efficient allocation and utilization of public resources. 3. Public Health and Safety • Behavioral problems, particularly dog bites and incidents involving aggression, can have a direct impact on public health and safety. • Veterinarians are in a position to identify potentially hazardous behaviors at an early stage and enhance public safety through appropriate education, behavioral guidance, and consultation. • Early recognition and appropriate management of behavioral risk factors can reduce the likelihood of injuries and other animal-related public health incidents. 4. Education and Public Awareness • Veterinarians play an important role in educating animal owners and promoting the prevention and appropriate management of behavioral problems. • Promoting responsible and informed animal ownership contributes to improved animal welfare, public health, and community safety. • Effective veterinary education and client communication can foster greater awareness of animal behavioral needs and promote more appropriate human–animal interactions.

	Animal behavior and psychology therefore extend beyond the clinical aspects of veterinary medicine and represent an important interdisciplinary field with direct implications for public health, safety, animal welfare, and human–animal relationships. Professional competence in this field enables veterinarians to facilitate healthier, safer, and more harmonious coexistence between animals and human communities. Specific Objectives For veterinary students and practicing veterinarians, the study of animal behavior and psychology provides not only essential academic knowledge but also contributes significantly to professional competence, clinical decision-making, and personal and professional development. The ability to distinguish between normal and abnormal behavior facilitates accurate clinical assessment and diagnosis, improves the effectiveness of treatment and management plans, and ultimately enhances the quality of life and welfare of affected animals. For veterinary students, knowledge of animal behavior provides the skills necessary to interact safely and appropriately with animals throughout their education, clinical training, examination, handling, and routine care. It also helps students develop appropriate approaches to animal restraint, communication, and management in clinical settings. For veterinarians, a sound understanding of animal behavior facilitates effective communication with animal owners, supports evidence-based and welfare-oriented clinical decision-making, and enables confident and professional management of challenging behavioral and clinical cases. Consequently, competence in animal behavior and psychology can enhance professional satisfaction, strengthen the veterinarian–client relationship, and contribute to the development of a competent, trustworthy, and ethically responsible veterinary professional within society.
Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: • Develop approaches that support the psychological well-being of animals in clinical practice. • Perform differential diagnosis of physical diseases that contribute to behavioral changes. • Evaluate the effects of pain and chronic diseases on animal behavior. • Diagnose behavioral disorders through history-taking, observation, and clinical assessment. • Explain the basic principles of learning and apply behavior modification techniques. • Summarize the drug classes used in psychopharmacology and their mechanisms of action. • Recognize common behavioral problems in cats and dogs and apply appropriate management strategies. • Identify different types of aggression, assess risk factors, and develop safe management strategies. • Explain mood and emotional disorders, including depression, anxiety, and phobias, and apply appropriate clinical approaches.

	- Recognize elimination problems, explain their underlying causes, and propose appropriate solutions. - Identify abnormal and repetitive behaviors, including stereotypic and compulsive behaviors, and apply appropriate treatment approaches. - Assess age-related behavioral changes and cognitive dysfunction and recommend appropriate care and treatment methods.		
Teaching methods	Case analysis		x
	Group discussion		x
	Lecture		x
	Simulation		x
Evaluation Criteria	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	TBA	30
	Quizzes		10
	Practical Assignments		10
	Activity		5
	Attendance		5
	Final Exam	TBA	40
	Total		100
Class Policy			
Tentative Schedule			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments
1	15.09.2026	Assessment of Emotional Health in Veterinary Medicine and Differential Diagnosis of Physical Disorders Causing Behavioral Changes	1, 3, 5 1. Pages 70–90, 175–190, 205–210 2. Pages 1–27, 28–43
2	22.09.2026	Pain Management in Veterinary Psychiatry	1, 4, 5, 6 2. Pages 44–65
3	29.09.2026	Diagnosis of Behavioral Disorders	15, 12, 11 2. Pages 106–122 10. Pages 1–131
4	06.10.2026	Learning Principles and Behavior Modification	16, 15, 2 2. Pages 123–144
5	13.10.2026	Psychopharmacology Quiz	4, 6, 7, 8 2. Pages 142–168 8. Pages 53–14
6	20.10.2026	Classification and Management of Problem Behaviors in Cats and Dogs (scratching, destructive biting, vocalization, etc.)	15, 13, 10 2. Pages 169–179
7	27.10.2026	Aggression in Dogs and Cats	1, 2, 7 2. Pages 180–206
		Midterm exam	

8	03.10.2026	Emotional Disorders in Cats and Dogs	8, 9, 12 2. Pages 207–226
9	10.10.2026	Elimination Problems in Cats and Dogs	11, 13, 15 2. Pages 227–243
10	17.10.2026	Abnormal and Repetitive Behaviors in Cats and Dogs	4, 6, 7, 9 2. Pages 244–262
11	24.10.2026	Aging-Related Problems in Cats and Dogs	13, 15, 12 2. Pages 263–277
12	01.11.2026	Repetitive and Other Abnormal Behaviors in Cattle, Small Ruminants, and Horses	2, 1, 5, 7 6. Pages 110–125 11. Pages 11–296
13	08.11.2026	Aggression in Horses Quiz	15, 16, 13 6. Pages 110–125 11. Pages 11–296
14	15.11.2026	Preventive Veterinary Management of Behavioral Disorders	10, 12 9. Pages 139–154
15	22.11.2026	Design Principles of Veterinary Clinic and Farm Infrastructure Focused on Animal Welfare	4, 7, 6 10. Pages 1–131 7. Pages 521–581
		Final exam	