General Information

To be successful, this course requires your interaction. For this reason, we expect you to have read all the material before each class and to come in with well thought-out questions and comments so we can have discussion. This includes both the reading material and the cases. Each week, about half the hour will be devoted to discussion of the text material in response to your questions, and the other half to issues about the cases.

Drs. Knight and/or Rollin will also be available after class if anyone wishes to speak to us one on one, by appointment.

Requirements:

1) Two cases to be analyzed in writing. They will be distributed a week before they are due.

2) A final examination

GRADING POLICY

This course will be graded Pass/Fail and the minimum cumulative score for passing the course is 70%. A student ranking within the course will be determined by the College, based on raw scores (total points) from the course. The following rules apply to the student not achieving the minimum cumulative score:
• It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Course Coordinator of his/her failing status.

• A student with an overall cumulative score of less than 65-69.9% will receive a ‘U’ grade.

• A student with an overall cumulative score of 64.9% or less will receive an F for the course.
Course Outline

Please read Veterinary Medical Ethics, pages 1-27 immediately to gain a synoptic vision.

Week 1: August 25 - Introductory Discussion
Introduction: Historical and social background; the changing role of the veterinarian; rationale for this class; emerging issues; goals, objectives, and procedures; need for general education; ethical issues you have encountered.

Week 2: September 1
Topics: The nature of ethics and philosophy; recognizing ethical issues, perceiving with one’s expectations. Ethics, and ethics; social ethics, personal ethics and professional ethics; criticizing ethics rationally, the five ethical pulls on veterinarians.
Cases:
- Case 2, Substandard Husbandry for Sheep
- Case 4, Farmer Uses Illegal Growth Promotant
- Case 16, Spaying Farm Cats
- Case 26, Vet Discovers Violations in Religious Slaughter
- Case 12, Euthanasia of Treatable Horse for Insurance
- Case 20, Dairy Farmers Using Unauthorized Feed Additive
- Case 39, Referral Practice Stealing Clients
- Case 82, Can Annual Vaccinations be Justified?

Week 3: September 8
Topics: Ethical theory; examples of classical ethical theories—Plato, Kant, Mill.
Readings: No new readings.
Cases:
- Case 23, Clients Refuse to Euthanize Cancer Dog
- Case 27, Alternative Surgical Training
- Case 17, Cat Breeder Requests Anesthetic
- Case 32, Veterinary Liaison with Pet Store Providing Poor Animal Care
- Case 60, Poor Air Quality in a Swine Barn
- Case 47, Conflict of Interest
- Case 96, Finding Animals for Continuing Education
- Case 91, Technicians Performing Management Procedures on Farm
- Case 94, Raw Diet

Week 4: September 15
Topics: Euthanasia methods. (Dr. Knight)
Readings: Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia
Cases:
- Case 28, Pig Farmer Asking for Euthanasia
- Case 71, Improving Rural Euthanasia
- Case 44, Euthanizing Sick Animals Without Owner Permission
- Case 51, Client Refuses Euthanasia for Sick Cat
- Case 25, Neonatal Buck Kids
- Case 99, Producer Unwilling to Euthanize Sick Pigs
- Case 84, Using Wood Chippers to Kill Chickens

Week 5: September 22
Topics: Why veterinary medicine ignored ethics for most of its history; scientific ideology and “value-free” science; the denial of animal pain and consciousness; ethical discussions, not all decisions are dilemmas; ethical perspectives; the parallels between science and ethics; ethical change, judo, sumo and recollection.
Readings: Vet Med Ethics, pp. 19-27; “The Concept of Illness in Veterinary Medicine” from JAVMA.
Cases:  
- Case 7, Farmer Requests Fetotomy
Case 38, Improperly Labeled Prescription  
Case 11, Euthanasia of a Cat Who Sprays  
Case 50, Female Veterinarians Offended by Colleagues’ Humor  
Case 53, Previous Practitioner Leaves a Sponge in Dog  
Case 55, Misreading of Radiograph  
Case 49, Female Vet Receives Unwelcome Attention  
Case 83, An Organic Farmer who won’t use Antibiotics for Foot Rot

**First Written Case Due**

**Week 6: September 29**

Topics: Animal Ethics (cont), Philosophical Articulation of the new social ethics, animal rights and animal welfare.

Cases:
- Case 77, Confidentiality in the Case of a Client Selling Sick Animals
- Case 63, Confidentiality and Employee Drug Abuse
- Case 5, Client Sells Known BVD Shedders
- Case 40, Confidentiality and Breeder Perpetuating Dogs with Seizures
- Case 79, Reporting a Dog Being Used to Carry Drugs
- Case 78, Conflict in Obligation to Peer and Client
- Case 93, Animal Welfare Versus Animal Rights

**Week 7: October 6**

Topics: The fundamental question of veterinary ethics—the moral status of animals, the changing social ethic for animals.

Readings: Vet Med Ethics, pp. 27-41

Cases:
- Case 1, Cow with Cancer Eye
- Case 33, Freeze Firing of Race Horses
- Case 3, Fracture Fixation
- Case 19, Marketing a Heartworm Regimen
- Case 36, Annual Rabies Vaccination
- Case 30, Veterinarian Seeking Maternity Leave
- Case 97, Should Veterinarians Support Activist Groups?

**Week 8: October 13**

Topic: Free-Wheeling Discussion of the New Ethic and Its Philosophical Underpinnings

**Week 9: October 20**

Topics: The new ethic and companion animals; convenience euthanasia; cosmetic surgery; genetic disease; behavior; The movement for “guardianship” and for raising the economic value of animals; quality of life issues.

Readings: Vet Med Ethics, pp. 49-64; “Convenience Euthanasia” (from JAVMA) and letters; “The Customized Companion Dog” Joan and Eric Dunayer, (from Agenda); B Rollin, “Euthanasia and Moral Stress”

Cases:
- Case 6, Client Requests Dog Euthanasia Because She is Moving
- Case 9, Docking and Cropping Dobermans
- Case 15, Euthanasia for Overbite
- Case 35, Irresponsible Veterinarian-breeder
- Case 43, Should a Bitting Dog be Adopted Out
- Case 64, Convenience Euthanasia Without Permission
- Case 21, Vet’s Responsibility When a Dog is Suspected to be Overly Aggressive
- Case 51, Client Refuses Euthanasia for Sick Cat
- Case 87, “Good” versus “Natural” Death
- Case 100, Veterinarians and Laws Banning Pit Bulls
- Case 104, The Ethics of Killing Healthy Animals
Second Written Case Due

Week 10: October 27
Topics: Continuation of Companion Animal Discussion
Readings: Vet Med Ethics, The Ethics of Critical Care, pp. 77-83; The Ethics of Alternative Medicine, pp. 93-103
Cases: Case 85, Should Shelters Place Animals in Less than Perfect Homes?

Week 11: November 3
Topic: Pain and Distress
Cases: Case 22, Painful Research Designed Without Analgesia, Case 69, Euthanasia of Research Animals Without Researcher’s Permission; Case 81, A Cat Who Fractures Both Legs After Surgery. Case 70, Anorexic Client Not Feeding His Dog Case 31, Surgical Procedures Performed by Technicians Case 45, Partner’s Misdiagnosis Case 59, Negligence of an Emergency Clinician Case 73, Bull Mastiff with Osteosarcoma.

Week 12: November 10
- Lecture by state veterinarian - Dr Kate Anderson
Topics: The legal status of animals today; the cruelty laws; cruelty and the veterinarian.
Cases: Case 41, Should Vets be Required to Report Animal Abuse? Case 8, Suspected Dog Fighting Case 57, Injured, Un-owned Animal Case 42, Two Cases of Found Dogs Case 68, Suspected Poisoning Case 103, Elderly Couple Adopting Many Animals Case 89, How Do Veterinarians Respond to Clients with Too Many Animals?

Week 13: November 17
Free-Wheeling Discussion of Pain and Distress
Cases: Case 101, Giving Analgesics to Mask Pain in Horses Case 102, Are Animals Raised in Confinement Happy in Confinement?

Week 14: December 1
Topics: Farm Animals
Cases: Case 14, Supernumerary Teat Removal Case 18, Penicillin Residue in Milk Case 34, Performing Cat Castrations on the Farm Case 37, Government Policy Preventing Export of Breeding Swine Case 46, Heavy Metal Toxicosis and Slaughter for Food Case 48, Rabies Vaccine for Livestock Case 52, Should Vets Prescribe Drugs to Increase Productivity? Case 54, Importation of Boar Semen Case 76, Farmer Asking Advice of “Experts” Case 30, Veterinarian Seeking Maternity Leave Case 86, Why Should We Worry about Suffering Right Before Death?
Week 15: December 8  
Lecture by Dr. Temple Grandin

Case 88, Is it wrong to Modify Animals to Fit Production Systems? 
Case 95, Using an Elastrator on Older Bulls