



Tameside College

Animal Care
Applicant Study Pack

Description of course:

This course is designed for people who have an interest in the natural sciences and wish to learn more about animals and their biology. Throughout the course we study the following modules;

- Genetics
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Animal Behaviour
- Animal Nutrition
- Animal Nursing
- Animal Health & Handling
- Aquatics Biology
- Exotics Biology

This will be the first step you take in your journey to achieving a science qualification. In order for success of this course you need;

- The ability to research through different types of media; i.e. websites, journals, books etc.
- A basic understanding of mathematics.
- An understanding of biological sciences.

The five Animal Needs

When learning about animals and care, you will become familiar with the Five Animal Needs:

1. A need for a suitable environment
2. A need to be housed with or apart from other animals.
3. A need for a suitable diet
4. A need to express normal behaviour patterns
5. A need to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

Task One

Create a care sheet for each of the following animals;

- **Ferret**
- **Veiled Chameleon**
- **Ring-necked Parakeet**

Your care sheet should include information on how to meet each of the Five Animal Needs by covering the following points;

- **Feeding & Dietary Requirements**
- **Housing Requirements**
- **Exercise & Enrichment**
- **Social Requirements (do they live alone or with others)**
- **Health Requirements (vaccinations, grooming, etc.)**

Task Two

Understanding the behaviour of animals, and identifying **normal** and **stereotypical** behaviours, is an important part of caring for animals and is a topic you will cover in depth both in the classroom and in practical sessions. This topic will encourage you to think about abnormal behaviours of both domestic animals and wild captive animals and the different methods used to reduce or stop these behaviours occurring.

Please view the video and answer the questions;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qMKmvt167U>

- **Identify the behaviour the elephant is exhibiting?**
- **Describe what could cause the behaviour?**
- **Explain why this could negatively impact the elephant.**
- **Implement 1 technique which would help the prevention of this behaviour.**

Task Three

At the root of all our animal courses is Biology as this helps us to understand basic functions, such as reproduction, respiration, and digestion. As the pet trade continues to grow, we are seeing a wider range of animals being kept as pets and new breeds and morphs appearing all the time. Therefore, having a basic understanding of Inheritance and Genetics is becoming more and more important in the care of domestic and exotic pets.

Genetic Inheritance

Just like humans, animals inherit specific characteristics from their parents, but how does this happen?

Your task is to:

- A.** Identify and describe how characteristics are passed from one generation to the next. Your answer should include the following terms:

- **Alleles (recessive and dominant)**
- **Homozygous**
- **Heterozygous**
- **Genotypes**
- **Phenotypes**

- B.** Provide a definition of the following terms and how they are used?

- **Monohybrid Cross**
- **Punnet Square**

- C.** Create a monohybrid cross using the example of Guinea Pigs with/without hair.

Type into YouTube 'Monohybrids and the Punnett Square Guinea Pigs' and it's the first video that is 6:28 minutes long. This will help you to complete the task.

Further Reading / Links

Animal Biology and Care

Authors: Sue Dallas

Dallas, S. (2014). *Animal Biology and Care*. John Wiley & Sons Ltd: Oxford.

The perfect study companion, *Animal Biology and Care, 3rd Edition* is specifically designed for students on animal care, animal nursing assistant and veterinary care assistant courses. Divided into three main sections covering animal science and genetics, health and husbandry and nursing procedures, this book will help lay the foundations for a successful career in animal care and management!

The Ecology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained

Author: Tony Juniper

Juniper, T. (2019). *The Ecology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*. Dorling Kindersley Ltd: London.

Whether you're new to ecology, a science student, or simply concerned about what's happening to our planet, this is a comprehensive introduction to the environment and climate change - arguably the most important subjects of our time.

Success in Academic Writing (Palgrave Study Skills)

Author: Trevor Day

Day, T. (2013). *Success in Academic Writing (Palgrave Study Skills)*. Palgrave Mcmillan: London.

Helps students to develop confidence, technique and clarity of purpose as a writer in their discipline. Takes the reader through the complete writing process from understanding the task through researching, reading and planning, to drafting and composing, reviewing and finalising their copy with many self-study exercises included throughout.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents>

Zoo Licencing Act 1981

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/37>

Trophy Hunting Debate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAy4YVBNJPK>

This is the sorts of debates that we have during your time on animal studies, please familiarise yourself with this video. Who do you agree with? Why do you agree with them? Are their opinions backed up with evidence?

What next?

- Visit our website – www.tameside.ac.uk for more information.
- Attend our New Students' Day.
- Make it official, join us for enrolment in August. Letters will be sent to all applicants at the end of July with more details.