

**Bergen Community College  
Veterinary Technology Program**

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<b>Course Title:</b>	Veterinary Nursing I
<b>Course Number:</b>	Vet 203
<b>Division:</b>	Health Professions
<b>Department:</b>	Veterinary Technology
<b>Credits:</b>	3
<b>Classroom Hours:</b>	2
<b>Laboratory Hours:</b>	3
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Admission into the professional segment of the Veterinary Technology Program along with successful completion of Vet 102, Vet 103, Vet 110, Vet 112, Bio 215.

**Course Description:**

This course will furnish foundation skills and considerations necessary for the routine nursing duties of the veterinary technician. Topics include general animal care, handling and restraint, sample collection, administration of medications, wound healing and bandaging techniques, and a survey of infectious diseases. Special emphasis will be placed on safety of the patient and the handler. The laboratory component will include laboratory demonstrations, practice on models, and practical experience with live animals.

**Course Goals:**

Upon completion of this course, the student should receive a foundation in:

- Routine animal nursing procedures for dogs and cats
- Routine nursing care for dogs and cats kept in a hospital setting
- Effective patient history-taking
- Techniques of canine and feline physical examination
- Restraining dogs and cats for diagnostic, therapeutic, and prophylactic procedures
- Use of appropriate routes and methods of drug administration
- Common infectious diseases of dogs and cats and measures taken for their prevention and treatment
- The role of the veterinary technician regarding zoonotic diseases
- Dynamics of wound healing
- Various bandaging techniques
- Proper care and maintenance of hospital equipment

**Student Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Perform husbandry routines necessary to maintain dogs and cats in a hospital or shelter setting
- Prepare feed and prescription diets for hospitalized patients
- Clean and disinfect cages, kennels, and runs
- Examine animals systematically for the detection of abnormal signs
- Properly use the clinical thermometer, stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, and otoscope
- Accurately determine a patient's vital signs and know the normal values for small animal species
- Recognize the danger potential of each species, so that safety is a priority when restraining animals
- Predict the common behavioral characteristics so that the most successful method of restraint will be chosen
- Restrain selected domestic animals safely and humanely for all procedures commonly performed in veterinary hospitals, including the use of safety muzzles and restraint poles
- Administer oral medications
- Administer subcutaneous and intramuscular parenteral injections
- Perform venipuncture from the cephalic, saphenous and jugular veins
- Place intravenous catheters in the cephalic and saphenous veins
- Explain and identify the signs and degrees of dehydration and calculate dehydration deficits
- Maintain an intravenous catheter and deliver fluid therapy, while determining and maintaining the correct rate
- Perform routine record-keeping, care, and observation of hospitalized patients
- Collect urine samples by various methods (free-catch, catheterization, cystocentesis)
- Perform therapeutic bathing, grooming and dipping of dogs and cats
- Administer enemas to small animals
- Apply topical medication to the eyes and ears
- Trim nails and cauterize as needed
- Express and infuse anal glands
- Compare and contrast first and second intention healing
- Demonstrate the basic techniques used in bandage, splint and cast application and removal
- Demonstrate the proper construction and application of Elizabethan collars
- Perform client education under supervision, and when appropriate, use grief management skills with bereaved pet owners
- Discuss the indications for and administration of vaccinations
- Describe the various infectious diseases of dogs and cats, including the signs, diagnosis, treatment, and nursing care
- Identify and discuss the role of the veterinary technician in relation to common zoonoses
- Distinguish the normal reproductive physiology of dogs and cats in order to differentiate normal vs. abnormal

- Describe fundamental nursing care for neonates, orphans and geriatrics, while understanding their individual requirements
- Provide proper care and maintenance of hospital equipment

## Course Materials:

Primary (required):

Bassett, JM & Thomas, JA: *Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, St. Louis, Missouri, 2014, Saunders-Elsevier

Crow, SE & Walshaw, SO, Boyle, JE: *Manual of Clinical Procedures in Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, & Rodents*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Ames, Iowa, 2009, Wiley-Blackwell

## Course Website:

Vet-203 is a "web-enhanced" class. The class has its own website, and each member of the class has an account for the website. The BCC online course management system is known as "Moodle."

To access your course in Moodle open a browser and go to the Portal site <http://my.bergen.edu>. You can find instructions on how to login to the Portal and connect to Moodle via Portal listed on the [Portal Help Site \(http://www.bergen.edu/portalhelp/Pages/StudentHelp.aspx\)](http://www.bergen.edu/portalhelp/Pages/StudentHelp.aspx).

- 1) Your user name is the same as your WebAdvisor username.
- 2) For your initial password, users logging into <http://my.bergen.edu> (the Portal) for the first time will use the first 2 letters of their last name with the first letter capitalized, plus the last 6 digits of your Bergen Community College Identification number. For example,

Name = Pat O'Shaunessy    BCC ID = 354210    Initial Password = Os354210

Name = Nancy McDouglas    BCC ID = 0054532    Initial Password: Mc054532

Please note that after logging in, you will be forced to change your password. Your password must be at least 8 characters long. It must contain a number, and an UPPER case letter and a Lower case letter. Your password cannot be any of your previous 6 passwords.

After you login to the portal site, you will find your Moodle course listed under MyClass sites. If you are logging in for the first time, you will be prompted to enter your username

and password again. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete onetime setup of your password.

Unless you are on campus, you are responsible for supporting your own Internet access and email account throughout the course.

If you still have difficulty logging in, please call the help desk at **1-877-612-5381**.

## **Teaching Methodologies:**

The teaching methodologies employed in this course include a power point lecture presentation, small and large group discussions, practical “hands-on” laboratories, clinical site visits, audiovisual presentations, the review of case studies, and student participation through brainstorming and critical thinking. Laboratory sessions will be held at Bergen Community College Veterinary Technology facility and will include sites off-campus.

## **Grading Policy Lecture\*:**

The lecture grades will be averaged as follows for 50% of the final course grade:

Online & clinical case assignments	10%
Discussion forums	5%
Exam #1	10%
Exam #2	10%
Comprehensive final examination	15%

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Student must obtain an overall minimum final grade of 76% in the lecture to successfully pass the course (independent of the laboratory grade).

## **Lecture Exam Content:**

There will be two written unit exams given at times selected and announced in advance by the instructor, and a comprehensive final examination. Exams will cover lecture material, resource material located on Moodle site, as well as textbook material. Each unit exam will be given in a combination multiple choice and clinical case format (bring a black or blue pen & a basic function calculator). The final exam will be completely multiple choice—you will need to provide a number 2 pencil for the scantron form & a basic function calculator.

Students are expected to take exams as scheduled by the instructor. Failure to attend an examination requires the student to contact the instructor within 3 days of the scheduled exam date and provide a written bona fide excuse for the absence. In the case of a verifiable excused absence, the instructor will provide a make-up exam which will be given in a format of the instructor’s choice—oral, essay, fill-in, short answer, etc. The exam will be administered on a day and in a location designated by the instructor. Failure to contact the instructor within this given time frame will result in a grade of 0 for that exam.

## **Online & Clinical Case Assignments:**

Online assignments related to the learning objectives will be posted on Moodle—with start and end dates. It is your responsibility to check the web site frequently, as assignments will NOT be available after the closing date and time. No assignments will be dropped from your final lecture grade, so it behooves you to check due dates frequently to avoid a zero grade.

The clinical case assignments are designed for enhanced classroom participation, and large group discussion that are related to the lecture topic. Students will be called upon randomly to participate in classroom activities, and you may be asked to prepare an oral presentation on a topic. Any written assignments that may be added should be typewritten in black ink, 12 font, Arial or Calibri type. Handwritten or late assignments will not be accepted. This grade will be based on the following criteria: topic preparedness as evidenced by active participation (25%), providing accurate (25%) and relevant information (25%), and relating information in a comprehensive, coherent and organized manner (25%).

## **Discussion Forums:**

You will be required to participate in discussion forums on related topics applicable to the veterinary technician. It will be your responsibility to make one original post and to respond to a colleague's posting for each forum set up. Therefore, the grade will be two-fold ( ½ credit given for an original post and ½ credit for a response to a posting). The discussion policies are as follows:

- Be courteous. If you disagree with someone, that's fine. Just do so politely.
- There is no right or wrong answer on some of the issues, just opinions. What counts is how well you back up an opinion.
- Some topics may require research. You should provide the resource material you have used in your discussion.
- This is a public forum. You should not use any language here that you would not use aloud in a traditional classroom.
- This is an academic forum, not an online chat room or multipurpose bulletin board. Abbreviations, shorthand, loose grammar, etc. which may be standard use in these informal arenas is not acceptable. Use the same care with your writing on the discussion forum as you would for any written assignment.
- If you use the HTML editor on the discussion forum there is a built in spell checker. If not, and if your keyboarding skills are as poor as mine you should probably word process your posting and then copy and paste it into the message. At least, proof read your posting before hitting the send button.
- It is possible that someone may post something that is offensive to others. We should understand that the class represents a very diverse population and we will not all agree on everything.

## **Grading Policy Laboratory:**

The laboratory portion of the course will count for 50% of the final course grade. Laboratory instructor will provide laboratory polices.

## **Clinical Competency Evaluations**

In addition to the regular coursework required, students will complete a list of clinical competencies associated with the course topic, as dictated by the AVMA accrediting body. Areas of nursing include patient assessment, patient care, and therapeutics.. Students will work individually (or in groups where indicated) to achieve a satisfactory competence level necessary for each required skill. A list of skill sets will be available (by appointment) in the Veterinary Technology building for ongoing review.

Students must perform ALL the essential skills required in this course. The student will be given the opportunity to complete these skills during regular class time. All skills performed during the semester will be evaluated by the instructor, who will provide a signature after the successful completion of a task. If any essential skill is not completed successfully after the first scheduled attempt, the student and instructor will meet to discuss and make arrangements for a second opportunity. If clinical competency remains unsatisfactory after two attempts, the student, instructor, and program director will meet to discuss further options for successful completion of the course.

## **Lecture Outlines:**

Outlines are designed to supplement the reading assignments and lecture series (their use is optional) and are not meant to serve as a replacement for attending class.

## **ACT Training Videos:**

There are optional training videos available in the Sidney Silverman Library, which the student should view to increase their understanding of topics covered in lecture, lab, and readings. You may inquire about a video at the reference desk. Videos must be viewed in the library—they will not be available for home use. Inquire with the lecturer if you have any questions about the videos.

## **Lecture Attendance Policy:**

Attendance and classroom participation are of utmost importance. Students are expected to be present and on time for all classes. Attendance will be recorded each session—it is your responsibility to sign in during the lecture time to receive credit for attendance. Whether you are late or absent for a particular class, you are responsible for all material covered in your absence—this material may be obtained from a classmate. Missing >3 lecture sessions (lateness > 20 minutes will count as ½ absence) for any reason will result in a failure for the course. You

will be referred to the program director in the event this should happen. If you are late for a lecture session, please enter the classroom quietly and without interruptions. You can contact the lecturer at the break or after lecture for sign in, any handouts or announcements you may have missed.

### **Laboratory Attendance Policy:**

See Laboratory Information Sheet

### **Student Accommodations:**

Students who require accommodations by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can request support services from the Office of Specialized Services of Bergen Community College, Room L116, Pitkin Education Center, 201-612-5270 or go to the following website: [ossinfo@bergen.edu](mailto:ossinfo@bergen.edu).

### **Rules and Regulations Governing Conduct:**

Each student is expected to obtain a copy of the Bergen Community Student Handbook and is responsible for knowing the information included in the Handbook. Copies are available in the Office of Student Life, the Welcome Center, evening office, and on the Bergen Web site.

In addition, each student accepted in the Veterinary Technology Program is expected to obtain a copy of the Veterinary Technology Student Handbook and is responsible for knowing the information included in this Handbook. Copies are available through the program director.

All students and faculty are governed by college rules and regulations. Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding codes of conduct.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Bergen Community College is committed to academic integrity. Please refer to the current Student Handbooks for details related to academic integrity/discipline.

### **Vet 203 Topical Outline:**

- Animal Behavior
- Handling and Physical Restraint
- Patient History and Physical Exam
- Sample collection methods—including phlebotomy, urine, feces
- Medication administration by various routes

- Nursing care and general husbandry
- Patient monitoring, including patient interaction, weight, attitude, vital signs, urine production, GI monitoring, and pain control
- IV catheter placement and fluid therapy
- Vaccinations and preventive health programs
- Infectious diseases
- Zoonoses
- Wound healing and bandage care
- Pediatrics & geriatrics
- Client education and grief counseling

## Lecture Outline & Schedule\*

Semester Offered: Fall 2013

### 9/5 Animal Behavior

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas text: Chapter 5 (pp. 135-164)

Training videos:

- ACT—Vet Assistant I: Introduction to Animal Behavior (Tape 6)
- ACT—Vet Assistant II: Canine Behavior—Body Postures (Tape 5)
- ACT—Vet Assistant II: Behaviorally Healthy Dogs (Tape 6)
- ACT—Veterinary Foundations: Breed Identification (Tape 6)
- Waltham Vol. 8 #1: Introducing a New Cat to a Household
- Waltham Vol. 8 #3: Interdog Aggression

**Moodle online assignment! Opens 9/5; Closes 9/19**

**Discussion Forum (Behavior) Opens 9/5; Closes 9/19**

### \_9/12 Animal Handling & Restraint

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas text: Chapter 6 (pp. 178-189)
- Crow, Walshaw & Boyle: Chapter 1, 35

Training videos:

- ACT—Kennel Asst: Animal Handling (Tape 3)
- ACT—Veterinary Foundations: Safety in the Hospital (Tape 1)
- Restraint & Handling of the Cat, Murray Fowler; 5/77



9/19 History Taking & Physical Exam

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas: Chapter 7 (pp. 223-245)
- Crow, Walshaw & Boyle: Chapter 9, 10, 13

Training videos:

- ACT—Kennel Asst: Basic Animal Care (Tape 5)
- ACT—Veterinary Foundations Seven Strategies Practiced by Successful Staff Members (Tape 2)
- ACT—Kennel Asst: Bathing & Grooming (Tape 2)

**Moodle online assignment! Opens 9/19; Closes 10/3**

9/26 History Taking & Physical Exam continued

10/3 Sample Collection; Medications & Administration

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas: Chapter 18 (pp. 586-619)
- Crow & Walshaw: Chapter 2, 3, 5, 12, 14, 15

Training videos:

- ACT Technician Skills: Blood Collection
- ACT Technician Skills: Male & Female Urinary Catheterization
- ACT—Vet Assistant I: Laboratory Skills (Tape 1)
- ACT—Vet Assistant II: Laboratory Skills (Tape 1)
- ACT—Veterinary Foundations: Practical Pharmacy Skills
- AAHA: Administering Medication

**Moodle online assignment! Opens 10/3; Closes 10/10**

**Discussion Forum Opens 10/3; Closes 10/24**

10/10 Hospitalization: Nursing Care & Fluid Therapy

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas: Chapters 19 & 24 (pp. 883-894)
- Crow, Walshaw & Boyle: Chapter 4

Training videos:

- ACT—Technician Skills: IV Fluid Administration
- ACT—Technician Skills: Subcutaneous Fluid Administration

- ACT—Kennel Asst: Caring for the Hospitalized Patient (Tape 6)
- ACT—Technician Skills: IV Catheter Placement

**Moodle online assignment! Opens 10/10; Closes 10/24**

10/17 **Exam #1** 1<sup>st</sup> hour (material covered 9/5 through 10/3)

10/24 Infectious Diseases—Canine; Vaccines & Preventive Health Programs

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas: Chapter 8 (pp. 260-274)

Training videos:

- ACT—Veterinary Foundations: Vaccines & Preventive Health Programs (Tape 3)
- ACT—Kennel Asst Training: Kennel Maintenance Skills (Tape 1)

**Moodle online assignment! Opens 10/24; Closes 11/14**

**Discussion Forum (Infectious Diseases) Opens 10/24; Closes 11/14**

10/31 Infectious Diseases—Feline; Vaccines & Preventive Health Programs

11/7 Zoonotic Diseases

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas: Chapter 4 (pp. 124-125)

**Discussion Forum (Zoonoses) Opens 11/7; Closes 11/20**

11/14 Wound Healing; Bandaging & Wound Care

Required reading:

- Bassert & Thomas: Chapter 26 (pp. 973-993)

Training videos:

- ACT—Vet Assistant II: Wound Care: Bandaging
- Small Animal Bandaging Techniques: UC Davis; Jan 04

**Moodle online assignment! Opens 11/7; Closes 11/20**

11/21 **Exam #2** 1st hour (material from 10/10 through 11/14)

12/5 Pediatric & Geriatric Care

Required reading: Bassert & Thomas: Chapters 21, 35, 36

**Moodle online assignment! Opens 11/21; Closes 12/10**

12/12 Euthanasia & Other Topics—Large Group Discussion

Required reading: Bassert & Thomas: Chapters 37 & 38

12/19 **Final Comprehensive Exam**

\*Lecture schedule is subject to change

*Note:* Related journal articles and any additional assignments will be posted on the web site throughout semester

## **Laboratory Outline & Schedule:**

Information will be provided by laboratory instructor

## **Lecture Contact Information:**

Dr. Cynthia Rockafellow  
Associate Professor  
Program Veterinarian  
Office #S-336 A  
Phone: 201-493-5016  
E-mail: [crockafellow@bergen.edu](mailto:crockafellow@bergen.edu)

Office hours: Room #S-336A  
Monday: 12:30-1:30pm  
Tuesday: 12:30-1:30pm  
Thursday: 12:30-1:30pm  
Or by appointment (please contact me by phone or e-mail at  
least 72 hours in advance)

## **Laboratory Contact Information:**

Lisa Picht, Instructor  
Office Veterinary Technology Building  
Phone: 201-493-3765  
E-mail: [lpicht@bergen.edu](mailto:lpicht@bergen.edu)

**Relevant addresses and additional contact information:**

- Division of Health Professions  
Veterinary Technology Department  
400 Paramus Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652-1595
- Health Professions Fax # 201-612-3876
- Veterinary Technology office (program director): 201-612-5389

*Last revised 7/13*