Bridging the Teaching Gap
Making Animal Welfare Education Accessible with Holistic Teaching Materials
• Why are holistic teaching materials crucial for animal welfare education?
• What are the teaching modules?
• How were they developed?
• How can you use them?
• Next steps
Treating and preventing diseases

Advice to animal keepers, policy makers, public, etc.

Law enforcement

VETS AND VPP:
ADVOCATES FOR ANIMAL WELFARE
"Veterinarians should be the leading advocates for the welfare of all animals, recognizing the key contributions that animals make to human society through food production, companionship, biomedical research and education."

(WOAH, 2012)
Animal welfare is widely recognised as key part of veterinary education...

BUT often

• Not included in the curriculum
• Taught insufficiently
• Not linked to later working reality
LACK OF TEACHING MATERIALS

Hardly any animal welfare teaching materials available
• for in class teaching
• for vets and veterinary paraprofessionals
• with a focus on the link between welfare and health
TEACHING MATERIALS FOR APPLIED ANIMAL WELFARE

- Theory and practice
- Holistic
- Adaptable
HOW WERE THEY DEVELOPED?

2017: FIRST EDITION MODULES

WOAH Recommendations
New developments

WTS Review Team
Review by:
Lecturers
Practitioners
Researchers

2023: NEW EDITION MODULES

USERS’ SUGGESTIONS
GLOBAL NETWORK OF PEER REVIEWERS

57 peer reviewers from 21 countries

Supported by institutions like:
- CoVAB, Makerere University
- AWEC, University Barcelona
TOPICS COVERED

MODULE 01 // INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL WELFARE
Animal welfare is a complex and multidimensional topic influenced by science, ethics, culture and socio-economic factors.

MODULE 02 // ANIMAL CARE
All animals have individual care requirements depending on their species, age and health situation.

MODULE 03 // HUMANE HANDLING
Handling is essential for many human-animal interactions and makes up a relevant part of an animal's life.

MODULE 07 // WOUND MANAGEMENT
Wounds are linked to animal welfare in many different ways. Wounds can directly reduce the welfare of an animal by causing pain, discomfort and suffering.

MODULE 08 // PAIN MANAGEMENT
Pain is an issue of high relevance for animal welfare. It impacts the welfare of an animal directly and indirectly by causing discomfort, suffering, delayed healing and weakened immune system.

MODULE 09 // INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Animal welfare related issues like stress, manipulation and lack of hygiene can increase the risk of infectious diseases.

MODULE 04 // CLINICAL EXAMINATION
The clinical examination is an important tool for animal health professionals to identify diseases, medical conditions and care deficiencies, which can compromise the animal welfare.

MODULE 05 // ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION
Assessing animal welfare using scientifically developed indicators and glossaire plays a crucial role in determining the welfare status of animals and their welfare.

MODULE 06 // ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION
Animal welfare legislation serves as a legal framework for monitoring and reporting of animal welfare-related issues and sets standards for animal welfare.

MODULE 10 // RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS
Antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest global health challenges of our time affecting humans and animals.

MODULE 11 // VACCINATIONS
Vaccinations can be an efficient way of preventing infectious diseases and therefore improve the welfare of animals while reducing the need for other treatments and antibiotics.

MODULE 12 // EUTHANASIA
The euthanasia of an animal that is suffering with no prospect of relief or recovery is an important part of applied animal welfare.
• Presentation slides
• Suggestions for practicals
• Additional materials
• Videos

→ Materials for in-person teaching
ANIMAL WELFARE FRAMEWORKS

5 Freedoms
Developed reduce maltreatment of farm animals
Farm Animal Welfare Council

1979

3 R’s
Framework for use of animals in experimentation
Russell and Burch

5 Domains
Extends the 5 freedoms and builds base for assessment
Mellor

2015

3 Orientations
Introduce 3 concepts to evaluate animal welfare
Fraser

1939

?
WHAT HAS INFLUENCED YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ANIMALS?
Learn to make a rope halter

Needed: rope, different animals
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS
HANDLING AND RESTRAINT

CLINICAL EXAMINATION RUMINANT
HOW TO GET STARTED?

- EN/ FR
- Free download

www.teaching-animal-welfare.org
NEXT STEPS

- Spanish version
- Upcoming topics:
  - One Health – One Welfare
  - Humane Population Management
  - Wild Animal Welfare
  - Fish Welfare
THANK YOU

Carolin Breitenbach
Welttierschutzstiftung

www.teaching-animal-welfare.org

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/vets-united
fb: https://www.facebook.com/WTSVetsUnited
Email: vetsunited@welttierschutz.org

Upcoming webinar:
Introduction to VETS UNITED Animal Welfare Teaching Modules
19th October 2023