Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002899	**Version:** 9 **Date Amended:** 02/Jan/2024

1. Module Title
Human-Animal Interactions

2a. Module Leader
Krishna Balasubramaniam

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	School of Life Sciences courses		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The relationships between humans and animals are complex, and the actions of humans towards animals in domestic, working, captive and natural contexts can profoundly influence the behaviour and welfare of animals. Through the exploration of what underpins human behaviour towards animals, you will develop graduate skills to effectively influence career professions such as animal caretakers, captive animal and animal rescue centre staff and veterinary nurses.

You will gain an understanding of the relevant aspects of human psychology as they relate to human-animal interactions, and thereby learn how to effectively manage human behaviour in relation to animals that are pets, therapy animals, working animals, farm, research or captive/wild animals. We will explore factors that influence the human-animal bond, including how animals affect human physical, physiological and mental health. You will develop your ability to employ survey techniques as tools to utilise the understanding of human-animal interactions and to design information and guidance to improve negative attitudes towards animals and enhance positive attitudes. Working in teams throughout the module, you will collaboratively construct and apply your knowledge of the different topics with the module content. Utilising guest lecturers from appropriate professional environments, the influence of legal and ethical frameworks on human-animal interactions will be considered and evaluated. You will gain an understanding of the factors which strongly influence human-animal relationships, such that you will be able to relate effectively to staff engaged in work within captive animal environments, rescue centres, other professionals e.g. vets/vet nurses, the general public, and those with negative attitudes towards animals.

6b. Outline Content

- Predicting human behaviour: the theories of Reasoned Action, Planned Behaviour, Self-efficacy and Stages of Change

- Human and family psychology: an overview

- Factors influencing the human-animal bond

- The effect of the human-animal bond on human and animal mental and physical health

- Attitudes and emotions in relation to animal suffering and death including abuse, animal illness, euthanasia and culling

- Identification and interpretation of human attitudes and behaviour in resolving animal-related problems.

- Legal and ethical issues, professionalism in relationships with clients and others.

- Human attitudes towards animals and understanding owner/pet relationships (e.g. animal abuse, abandonment, animal hoarding).

- Gathering information: survey designs, interview techniques, active listening, use of open and closed questions

- The facilitation and maintenance of behavioural change in humans utilising Information and Guidance techniques

- Potential contribution of medical, environmental and husbandry factors to animal management problems.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Attendance at a suitable animal or wildlife rescue centre

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Utilise an evidence-based approach to contextualise the physical, emotional, social and cognitive effects of animals within human-animal interaction scenarios.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify factors influencing human-animal relationships in positive/negative manner.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate understanding of appropriate legal, ethical and professional conduct in a human-animal management scenario.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Devise, justify and deliver information gathering and giving protocols to improve human-animal relationships.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	30	1-4	10 x 3 hours lecture/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	6	1-4	2 x 3 hrs: practical sessions
Student managed learning	114	1-4	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
MULTIPHASE COURSEWORK 2000 WORDS					

Assessment components for Element 010

Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Essay	Canvas	60 (%)	All
010/2	TBL1	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	10 (%)	
010/3	TBL2	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	10 (%)	
010/4	TBL3	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	10 (%)	
010/5	TBL4	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	10 (%)	

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Examination Cambridge	1-4	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
EXAMINATION 1 HOUR (1000 word equivalent)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]