

Module code: MOD010066	Version: 4 Date Amended: 04/Aug/2026
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1. Module Title
Clinical Animal Behaviour

2a. Module Leader
Debbie Emmerson

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental 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
Pre-requisite:	MOD010010	Professional Practice and Legislation	Compulsory
Pre-requisite:	MOD010009	Applied Behaviour and Training	Compulsory
Pre-requisite:	MOD010066	Clinical Animal Behaviour	Compulsory
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
This module builds on your understanding of learning theory and its application to behaviour and training, focusing on how to work effectively with clients to prevent and/or manage problematic behaviour and to develop treatment plans for behaviour change. You'll learn how to gather and examine the evidence to determine causes of problem behaviour, and explore appropriate management and treatment options. You'll also examine a range of treatment options, including behavioural techniques and complimentary therapies such as psychopharmacology, pheromonotherapy and nutraceuticals. This module also supports the development of essential academic and professional skills for working in the industry. You'll learn to gather and evaluate information, identify key ideas and communicate effectively in written, spoken and visual formats for a range of audiences. It further develops your ability to reference correctly, analyse data, present findings clearly and use digital tools confidently. You'll also enhance your time management, self-awareness, reflective practice and professional conduct, including customer care skills.
6b. Outline Content
FACTORS AFFECTING NORMAL, ABNORMAL AND PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR – genetics, environment, ethology, socialisation, trauma, pain, medical, learning, human perception and expectations DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES for problem behaviour – pain, fear, frustration etc. HUMAN AND ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELLING SKILLS – theories (behaviourism, psychodynamic, cognitive, humanistic), open and closed questioning, home visits vs clinic vs remote, clinic set up, bias/preconceptions/misconceptions/prejudice, body language etc. TREATMENT PROTOCOLS – for the range of problems including handling problems, intraspecific and interspecific aggression, scent marking and house soiling, destruction, separation related problems, fears/phobias, anxiety disorders, ingestive problems, vocalisation. ADJUNCTS TO BEHAVIOURAL THERAPIES – such as psychopharmacology, pheromonotherapy, nutraceuticals, physical therapies, massage, T-touch. Scientific evidence, client perception and beliefs and animal welfare.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

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	Investigate how a range of factors contribute to normal, abnormal and problematic behaviour in pet species.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically assess methods of behaviour therapy used to manage and treat common problem behaviours in a range of pet animals.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evaluate the use of a range of adjuncts to the management and treatment of problem behaviour, including psychopharmacology, pheromonotherapy and alternative or complimentary therapies taking in to account scientific evidence, animal welfare and human belief systems.

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	33	1-3	Lectures
Other teacher managed learning	3	1-3	Workshops
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Self-Directed Learning
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	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Report (3000 Words) - Students to fully investigate and evaluate treatment options for one common behaviour problem to include: - potential contributing factors - possible presentation/symptoms - behavioural treatment options with evidence based rationale - available adjuncts to treatment e.g. psychopharmacology, including evaluation of scientific evidence

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]