

Module code: MOD011337	Version: 1 Date Amended: 11/Apr/2025
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1. Module Title
Applied Behaviour and Training

2a. Module Leader
Debbie Emmerson

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

In this module, you'll build on your previous learning and apply it directly to the field of animal training and behaviour therapy.

Combining theoretical study with hands-on practical sessions, you'll develop real-world skills in animal handling and training across a variety of species. These sessions will strengthen both your technical ability and your understanding of behaviour in line with current industry standards and regulating bodies.

Through practical experience of training animals, you'll be prepared for a career in animal training or a career that benefits from an understanding of training techniques. When completing this module alongside the Professional Practice and Legislation module, you'll be able to register as an Animal Trainer (AT) or Animal Training Instructor (ATI) with the Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC) via membership of a practitioner organisation such as the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), (subject to any assessment they require for membership).

Animals you may work with include dogs, small mammals, horses and livestock, giving you broad exposure to different behavioural contexts and training challenges.

6b. Outline Content

APPLIED PRINCIPLES OF BEHAVIOUR AND TRAINING – habituation, sensitisation, desensitisation, counter conditioning, flooding, trigger stacking, latent and observational learning, classical conditioning, operant conditioning, blocking, overshadowing, extinction, spontaneous recovery, eliciting behaviour, motivation, Premack, Yerkes-Dodson, schedules of reinforcement, building behaviour (3D's), considerations of training, markers, applied ethology, communication, stress, training plans, lesson plans and class management.

EQUIPMENT AND RISKS – muzzles, collars, leads, harnesses, long lines, head collars, aversives, electric fencing, saddles, bits, bridles, arenas, transport e.g. carriers, trailers, medical equipment, agility equipment etc.

PRACTICAL SKILLS – principles of safe handling and equipment use. Training skills: shaping, luring, developing and fixing behaviours, extinction, timing, body language, schedules of reinforcement, key class behaviours e.g. loose lead walking, down, leave etc

COMMUNICATION/INSTRUCTION – learning styles, setting the learning environment, communication styles, verbal and non-verbal communication, lay terminology, checking learning, physical limitations of handlers and animals and adjustments.

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	Integrate an understanding of ethology, welfare and learning theories in order to achieve behaviour change in a range of pet species and their owners/handlers.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Justify the use of training techniques demonstrating knowledge and application of learning theories.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate safe, effective handling across a range of species showing consideration of welfare, legislation and learning processes.

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	15	1-3	Lectures
Other teacher managed learning	21	1-3	Practicals (12 hrs) Trip (6 hrs) Workshops (3 hrs)
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 (%)

Provide a training log to record the process of training of a range of animal species to include demonstration of practical techniques, explanation of rationales and communication methods with owners. A portfolio of 3 completed training log entries with owner instructional materials – 30% each. Formative reflective log entry – 10% formative engagement

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]