

Module code: MOD011345	Version: 1 Date Amended: 11/Apr/2025
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1. Module Title
Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare

2a. Module Leader
Jonathan Amory

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-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Building on concepts introduced in the Behaviour module, this module places particular emphasis on the integration of internal and external influences upon the animal, which together shape the behaviour patterns expressed. You'll evaluate key concepts in the scientific study of animal welfare and learn how welfare can be objectively assessed and reviewed. You'll also explore the ethical aspects of animal welfare and animal use, focusing on both farmed and companion animal species.

Throughout the module, you'll be encouraged to think critically about the complexities involved in animal welfare and develop a knowledge of existing research within a scientific report. You'll develop key skills such as the concise presentation of complex material and the critical evaluation of scientific literature, all essential for a career in animal science or welfare.

6b. Outline Content

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INFLUENCES ON BEHAVIOUR: motivation, behavioural needs, management and imposed environments, environmental enrichment.

ANTHROPOLOGY: the study of human - animal interactions. Behaviour problems and their causes.

DEFINITIONS OF WELFARE, stress and coping, integration of all three. Fitness and Animal Welfare.

MEASURING WELFARE: Behavioural measures - stereotypes, time budgets. Physiological measures, adreno-cortical axis, heart rate, reproductive output. Interpreting these in terms of welfare.

WELFARE AND ANIMAL USE: Ethics of Animal Use, systems for evaluating acceptable animal use, legislation and its effectiveness.

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	Appraise behavioural and physiological measures of animal welfare
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Integrate advanced concepts of welfare, stress and coping strategies
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evaluate practical measures of animal welfare assessment
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Create campaign materials to highlight a current animal welfare issue

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	24	1-4	Lectures
Other teacher managed learning	12	2,4	Workshops
Student managed learning	114	1-4	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	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Presentation and portfolio					

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]
