

ADVANCED WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

Advanced Wildlife Technician (60 hrs)

Advanced Wildlife Technician Field Placement (40 hrs)

Offered at Seneca College, King Campus, this continuing education course will offer advanced studies in wildlife medicine for the veterinary technician.

The in class sessions will take place one day a week, starting on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, and continue weekly for 10 weeks. The placement is a corequisite, and can be carried out at Toronto Wildlife Centre, Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre, OSPCA Wildlife Centre (Midland) or a centre of the student's choice. The schedule for the placement hours is flexible.

Although the focus will be on wildlife commonly seen in Ontario, the skills learned are transferable to exotic pet practice and zoo animal medicine. Using lecture, laboratory and on-site placement experience, topics to be explored in depth include; hematology of nondomestic species (avian, reptilian, mammalian), capture techniques and anesthesia, post mortem techniques, emergency and critical care, radiology and rehabilitation.

Prerequisites- Applicants must have graduated from a Veterinary Technician Diploma Program to be eligible to enrol in the subject and field placement.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate haematological samples from birds, reptiles, rodents, rabbits and other nondomestic mammals.
2. Describe and perform capture techniques for various native wildlife species
3. Describe and perform various anesthetic protocols as they pertain to birds, reptiles and nondomestic mammals
4. Perform diagnostic post mortems on birds, reptiles and nondomestic mammals
5. Describe and assist in procedures required for treatment of emergency and critical care cases of birds, reptiles and on domestic mammals
6. Perform diagnostic fecal examinations on various wildlife species, and have a working knowledge of common parasites found in the different species
7. Perform diagnostic xrays on birds, reptiles and non domestic mammals
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the principals of wildlife rehabilitation, as they are utilized in wildlife rehabilitation centres, private veterinary clinics, and animal shelters (including appropriate husbandry, orphan care, zoonoses, MNR regulations, release criteria)

For more information, please contact Dr. Sue Carstairs at sue.carstairs@senecac.on.ca

Past comments about this course, as received in an anonymous survey conducted by Seneca College:

“Awesome course that extends on the exotics course in the Veterinary Technician program. It is also great for other techs that want a career change.”

“This instructor is fantastic, very knowledgeable and professional and understanding”

“Sue is a great outlet for learning about wildlife. She has also opened up doors for future employment for me in this field”

“Overall an excellent course. Lots of material, very interesting. I would not change anything, content is excellent”

“I have thoroughly enjoyed this subject and the skills I have gained are invaluable. Dr. Sue Carstairs is an awesome teacher and her knowledge really made the course what it is”

“Can we have a continuation of this course, ie Advanced Advanced Wildlife Technician?”

This course is recognized for 10 OAVT CE credits.