Course Description

ATE2631 | Small Animal Nursing 1 | 3.00 credits

The student will master the technical skills of medicating animals and the taking and processing of radiographs. This course also covers general care, including grooming and bathing, feeding and watering, nail trimming, ear cleaning, anal sac expression, and determination of vital signs. Prerequisites: ATE1110, 1211; corequisites: ATE2611, 2655L.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will become acquainted with basic nursing care of the hospitalized patient by:

1. Discussing the importance of taking vitals (TPR, MM, CRT) and recognizing the pathophysiology of each
2. Recognizing normal values for the various measurements used to assess patient status (e.g., TPR, MM, CRT, blood pressure etc.) For the canine and feline
3. Implementing the nursing plan and demonstrating how it is used to evaluate patients in the hospital
4. Defining and describing tissue perfusion and how abnormal perfusion affects the patient
5. Defining cardiac output and recognizing how abnormal output affects the patient
6. Recognizing the physiological and clinical signs of pain
7. Demonstrating understanding of the nutritional needs of the hospitalized patient
8. Demonstrating understanding of the required general grooming and hospital care of canine and feline patients
9. Recognizing and implementing the disinfection procedures necessary for hospitalized patients

Competency 2: The student will learn the basics of fluid therapeutics for the canine and feline by:

1. Recognizing the vocabulary associated with fluid therapy
2. Demonstrating understanding of the physiology and pathophysiology of a dehydrated patient
3. Discussing the various fluid types by recognizing class and tonicity along with advantage and disadvantages of each type
4. Recognizing the different types of iv catheters, indications for use and how to properly maintain a catheter for a hospitalized patient
5. Discussing the different routes used to administer fluids along with advantages and disadvantages
6. Discussing and recognizing various disease processes and procedures where fluid therapy is advantageous
7. Recognizing the clinical signs of dehydration and the clinical signs used to formulate the degree of dehydration
8. Calculating the amount of fluid necessary for the patient (e.g., Maintenance dehydration and ongoing losses).
9. Discussing and recognizing how to monitor a patient that is receiving iv fluid therapy
10. Recognizing the clinical signs of fluid overload

Competency 3: The student will learn the basics of small animal dentistry for the canine and feline by:

1. Reviewing the anatomy of the tooth
2. Identifying the anatomy of the periodontium
3. Reviewing common dental terminology
4. Discussing the formation of plague and its long-term effects
5. Discussing the clinical signs of periodontal disease
6. Outlining the steps for the procedure for a complete dental prophylaxis
7. Demonstrating the charting of teeth and the various methods used in veterinary medicine to chart teeth
8. Discussing and recognizing the normal and abnormal occlusions seen in canine and feline dental patients
9. Recognizing common pathologies seen in canine and feline dental patients
10. Recognizing basic dental instruments used in prophylaxis procedures

11. Recognizing and discussing the various ultrasonic dental machines used in small animal veterinary medicine

Competency 4: The student will learn the basics of small animal nutrition by:
1. Recognizing energy producing vs nonenergy components of food
2. Differentiating between essential and nonessential amino acids
3. Differentiating between macro minerals and microminerals
4. Interpreting a pet food label and explaining it to a client
5. Recognizing and discussing all the required components of the pet food label
6. Defining the following terms: nutrient ingredient formula, nutrient profile, calorie, and kilocalorie
7. Recognizing special considerations in feeding the adult orphaned pediatric, geriatric, pregnant lactating, injured or ill canine and feline

Competency 5: The student will learn the basics of transfusion medicine for the canine and feline by:
1. Discussing the clinical presentation of a patient with a bleeding disorder
2. Formulating questions to take an accurate history of a patient with a suspected bleeding disorder
3. Recognizing the clinical setting in which a blood transfusion would be warranted
4. Recognizing the symptoms of a bleeding disorder on a physical exam in the canine and feline
5. Demonstrating knowledge of laboratory tests to diagnose significant blood loss or bleeding disorders
6. Recognizing various types of blood products available in veterinary medicine and how they are stored,
7. Demonstrating knowledge of various blood products and preferred uses
8. Recognizing the blood groups for the canine and feline
9. Demonstrating how to care for the clinic blood donor
10. Outlining the basic procedure for performing a blood transfusion
11. Demonstrating knowledge of the different anticoagulants used in veterinary medicine
12. Discussing how to evaluate and monitor a patient receiving a blood transfusion
13. Recognizing the clinical signs of a transfusion reaction

Competency 6: The student will understand the basics of blood pressure by:
1. Defining blood pressure
2. Recognizing normal values
3. Recognizing the different methods used to monitor blood pressure
4. Recognizing indications for monitoring blood pressure in a clinical setting
5. Discussing the proper procedure for taking blood pressure using a doppler or oscillometer machine
6. Recognizing clinical signs seen in a patient with hypotension or hypertension
7. Discussing treatment options for hypotension and hypertension
8. Defining central venous pressure

Competency 7: The student will understand the basics of oxygen therapy by:
1. Recognizing terminology associated with respiratory conditions
2. Indicating clinical situations where oxygen therapy is indicated
3. Describing how oxygen concentration is measured in the body and monitored
4. Demonstrating knowledge of pulmonary functions involved in respiratory disease
5. Identifying specific characteristics of diseases dealing with the upper lower airway's parenchyma and pleural cavity
6. Outlining how to clinically evaluate a patient's respiratory condition
7. Outlining the various methods for providing oxygen to the respiratory patient
8. Recognizing the positive and negative effects of oxygen
9. Discussing positioning techniques for thoracic radiographs

Competency 8: The student will be able to recognize various canine and feline breeds along with specific hereditary

conditions by:
1. Recognizing various breeds by photo
2. Discussing the behavioral characteristics of each breed
3. Advising a client of the specific characteristics of each breed
4. Identifying specific hereditary issues specific to each breed

Learning Outcomes:
- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning