

PVG0036, Animal ethics, 3.0 Hp

Syllabus

Valid from: 2017H

Level within study regulation:

Third cycle

Subject:

- Animal Science

Grading scale:

Pass / Failed

Course language:

Swedish

Entry requirements:

Admitted to a postgraduate program in natural or social science, or humanities or arts, or to a residence program in e.g. veterinary medicine.

Objectives:

After the course the students will be able to:

- Detect, describe and develop an ethical discernment of ethically relevant aspects of animal use in society in general, and in the own doctoral work.
- Distinguish between ethics and legislation, and identify implicit ethical norms in regulations.

- Identify elements in solid argumentation, including the role of emotions, facts and ethical norms.
- Explain the ethical relevance of solid science in relation to use of animals in research.
- Explain the relation between animal science and animal ethics.
- Describe and use a number of normative ethical theories (e.g. utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, and feminist relational ethics) on issues such as livestock production, veterinary medicine and/or care taking, or interaction with companion animals.
- Chose an ethically relevant issue in animal-human-interaction , formulate an ethical standpoint how to handle the issue, followed by a discussion of pro and contra arguments for this position.
- If applicable, elaborate on ethical aspects in her/his own doctoral project.

Content:

The course contains lectures and mandatory seminars giving an overview of differences between ethics and legislation, elements in ethical argumentation, relation between animal science and animal ethics, description of normative ethical theories used in animal ethics, and an introduction to relevant issues e.g. historical and societal overview of human-animal interaction, reasons for human use of animals, ethical aspects of this use in terms of un/necessary suffering, integrity, responsibilities, limits, interests, behaviour and needs (for both humans and animals). Participant's doctoral projects will be presented and included in the elaboration of these issues.

In order to 'learn' ethics practice in listening to other's opinions, formulating relevant questions and exercise in ethical discernment is necessary. Hence the course offers mandatory seminars for discussion of different themes where active participation is required to create a learning community over the course period. Further there will be a web-based task for discussion and interaction on a topical animal ethics issue.

Two guest lecturers will be invited to present their specific field of competence (The Link (humananimal abuse), and Critical animal studies).

Modes of assessment:

Attendance and active participation in at least 80% of the seminars, fulfilling the web-based interaction task, and to write two short individual assignments during the course period.

- If a student has failed an examination, the examiner has the right to issue supplementary assignments. This applies if it is possible and there are grounds to do so.
- The examiner can provide an adapted assessment to students entitled to study support for students with disabilities following a decision by the university. Examiners may also issue an adapted examination or provide an alternative way for the students to take the exam.
- If this syllabus is withdrawn, SLU may introduce transitional provisions for examining students admitted based on this syllabus and who have not yet passed the course.
- For the assessment of an independent project (degree project), the examiner may also allow a student to add supplemental information after the deadline for submission. Read more in the Education Planning and Administration Handbook.

Organisation:

Department of Animal Environment and Health

Supplementary information**Other information:**

- The right to participate in teaching and/or supervision only applies for the course instance the student was admitted to and registered on.
- If there are special reasons, students are entitled to participate in components with compulsory attendance when the course is given again. Read more in the Education Planning and Administration Handbook.