

Department	Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Name of Course	Veterinary Forensic Medicine
University Course Number	VEM 5XXX
Catalog Description	Exposure to the application of veterinary forensics in crimes involving animals, including recognition of abuse, crime scene investigation, and interacting with the legal community. Course Coordinator - Dr. M. Merck (with Dr. J Levy) Grading System – Letter Grade
Semester Credit Hours	1 credit
Instructional Units; Lectures	14
Instructional Units; Discuss	2
Instructional Units; Labs	0
Midterm, Final Exams	1
Total Contact Hours	17

Course Outline

IU No.	Instructional Topic	Instruction Format
1	Animal Cruelty	Lecture
2	Crime Scene Investigation, Chain of Custody, and CSI: The Animal	Lecture
3	Recognition of Non-Accidental Causes of Injury and False Cases of Animal Cruelty	Lecture
4	Identifying and Interpreting Bruising and Abrasion Patterns and Sexual Assault	Lecture
5	Gunshot Wounds	Lecture
6	Weapons, Blood Loss Calculation, and Drowning	Lecture
7	Asphyxiation and Smoke Inhalation	Lecture
8	Burn Wounds and Blunt Force Trauma	Lecture
9	Poisoning and Dog Fighting	Lecture
10	Neglect and Collectors	Lecture
11	Laboratory Testing and Time of Death	Lecture
12	The Forensic Examination Report and the Burden of Proof	Lecture
13	Working with Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, and the Media	Lecture
14	Expert Witness Testimony	Lecture
15	Mock Trial Part 1	Discussion
16	Mock Trial Part 2	Discussion
17	Final Examination	Exam

Course Objectives

This course will teach the student the many roles of the veterinarian regarding the investigation of crimes involving animals including crime scene investigation. The course will introduce the student to medico-legal death investigation and the application of forensic science to abuse cases. The student will learn how to work with investigators, prosecutors, and how to provide courtroom testimony.