

**COURSE NAME; NUMBER; SEMESTER; MEETING DAYS, TIMES, AND PLACE.**

Companion Animal Science  
11:067:250 Spring 2024  
MW 2:00-3:20 PM  
Bartlett 123

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Instructor(s): Taylor Ross, Ph.D.  
Office Location: Bartlett 118  
Phone: (848) 932-8354 Email: t.ross@rutgers.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment

**COURSE WEBSITE, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:**

- Any materials needed will be posted to Canvas

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Companion Animal Science is an introductory, non-major course focused on introducing students to the fundamental principles and functions important in the companion animal science industry. The scientific underpinnings of modern companion animal science are presented, with emphasis on basic nutrition, reproduction, animal domestication, evolution, behavior, anatomy/physiology, as well as health and disease management. The biological and economic structure of various companion animal industries (dogs, cats, arachnids, amphibians, reptiles, pet birds, pet fish, and small mammals) are presented.

**LEARNING GOALS:**



This course is core certified for the following SAS/SEBS Core Curriculum Learning Goals:

Areas of Inquiry – NS: Natural Sciences (NS)

1. GOAL NS-1 – Understand and apply basic principles and concepts in the physical or biological sciences.

Program Learning Goals (PLGs):

1. Understand the human-animal bond and the responsibilities of animal ownership in current society (PLG 7)  
*Assessment: Quizzes and Pet Owner Guide project*
2. Understand the nature of companion animal domestication, anatomy, behavior, physiology, nutrition, evolution, health, and disease (PLG 1)  
*Assessment: Quizzes and Pet Owner Guide project*
3. Understand the opportunities and responsibilities of animal-oriented careers, including legal, financial, and societal issues (PLG 1)

*Assessment: Quizzes*

**ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES, GRADING & ASSESSMENT:**

**Quizzes:** You will complete short quizzes every day in class given at the beginning of each class period. You must attend class to do these quizzes. Your 5 lowest score quizzes will be dropped from your grade.

**Pet Owner Guide (semester project):** You will develop a guide for an assigned companion animal that someone could use to understand all the responsibilities of owning that animal. This will be submitted in parts throughout the semester for completion grades, a rough draft that will be peer evaluated, and the final will be fully graded by the professor.

**Attendance and Participation:** You are expected to attend live classes. The live classes will include interactive discussions. To encourage participation, I will expect all students to participate in the discussions and answer questions in class. Additionally, there will sometimes be unannounced in-class activities or small assignments in which you will earn credit. These points cannot be made-up unless you have talked to me *prior to missing class*. In cases of extended absences or true emergencies, please contact Dean of Students and then we will discuss how to make up work going forward.

**Final Course Grade:** Grades in this course will reflect the table below.

Activity or Major Assignment	Due Date	Points or Grade %
Quizzes – 23 quizzes (28 possible quizzes, drop 5 lowest) (5 pts each)	Daily	115
Pet Owner Guide	See course schedule	200
Attendance and Participation	In class	85
<b>Total</b>		<b>400</b>

**Grading Scale:** Grades will be calculated as follows:

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	>90%	>360
B+	85-89%	340-359
B	80-84%	320-339
C+	75-79%	300-319
C	70-74%	280-299
D	60-69%	240-279
F	<60%	<239

**ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Please follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/getting-registered>. Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

See last page

**FINAL EXAM/PAPER DATE AND TIME**

Online Final exam Schedule: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

This class will not have a final exam.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at

<https://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/current.pdf>. The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated, and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

**SEBS DEI STATEMENT**

It is our intention that students of all backgrounds will be well served by this course. We will work to create an environment of inclusion which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. We are lucky to have a diverse university. Diverse voices and life experiences enhance the learning process and we welcome students to share their personal experiences. We will not tolerate disrespectful language or behavior against any individual or group. If you feel as though you have been disrespected or treated unfairly by the instructors or any other individual please let us know. You may speak with the instructors in person, over email or report anonymously via the Office of Academic Programs. In addition, you may also report bias to the Rutgers Diversity and Inclusion initiative using this link: <http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/report-bias-incident/>.

**STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES**

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

**Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

**Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

**DoSomething** button through Rutgers Dean of Students office:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

**Wellness Coaching** through Rutgers HOPE:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/hope/wellness-coaching/>

**Self-Help Apps** found on the Rutgers Student Health website:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/self-help/self-help-apps/>

**NJ Hopeline** – (1-855-654-6735) | **National Suicide Hotline** – (1-800-273-8255)

**BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Rutgers Student Food Pantry and/or the Dean of Students (details below). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so, as they may be able to provide additional support.

**Rutgers Student Food Pantry**

848-932-5500 / College Ave Student Center, Room 115 (126 College Ave) /

<http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food/>

Check their website for hours and additional locations. The Rutgers Student Food Pantry is dedicated to helping all Rutgers students in need of food, no questions asked. Students will be provided with groceries that typically last about one week.

**Dean of Students Office**

848-932-2300 / 88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <https://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/>

Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm

The Dean of Students Office at Rutgers University-New Brunswick provides solutions, services, and support to help students navigate Rutgers University. The Office serves as a student support network by providing advocacy, problem resolution, and critical incident intervention for those times when additional assistance is needed. Please call to schedule an appointment to meet with a representative from the Dean's office.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE @11:59</b>
W 1/17	Introduction	
M 1/22	Human Animal Bond	
W 1/24	Companion Animal Industry & Careers	
R 1/25		<i>Project Specie Assigned</i>
M 1/29	Evolution & Domestication	
W 1/31	Behavior	
R 2/1		<i>Evolution &amp; Behavior Sections</i>
M 2/5	Nutrition	
W 2/7	Anatomy & Physiology	
M 2/12	Genetics	
W 2/14	Reproduction	
R 2/15		<i>Genetics &amp; Anatomy &amp; Physiology Sections</i>
M 2/19	Nutrition	
W 2/21	Housing & Husbandry	
M 2/26	Health & Disease	
W 2/28	Dogs	
R 2/29		<i>Reproduction &amp; Health &amp; Disease Sections</i>
M 3/4	Dogs	
W 3/6	Cats	
M 3/11	<b>No Class – Spring Break</b>	
W 3/13	<b>No Class – Spring Break</b>	
M 3/18	Cats	
W 3/20	Arachnids	
R 3/21		<i>Nutrition &amp; Housing &amp; Husbandry Sections</i>
M 3/25	Other Pet Bugs	
W 3/27	Amphibians	
M 4/1	Reptiles	
W 4/3	Birds	
R 4/4		<i>Rough Draft Project</i>
M 4/8	Fish	
W 4/10	Small Mammals	
M 4/15	Small Mammals	
W 4/17	Service & Working Animals	
R 4/18		<i>Rough Draft Edits</i>
M 4/22	Research	
W 4/24	The Future	
R 4/25		<i>Final Project</i>
M 4/29	Wrap-Up	

\*\*Schedule subject to change\*\*