

AAS 219 Animal Cruelty: NH Laws, Investigations, and Prosecution 1 Credit

Instructor of Record: Jerilee A. Zezula, D.V.M.
Associate Professor, Applied Animal Science
Thompson School of Applied Science, UNH
204 A Barton Hall, 603-862-1014; jerilee.zezula@unh.edu

Collaborators: Joanne Bourbeau, Humane Society of the United States, NH-VT
Representative

Steven Crawford, D.V.M., New Hampshire State Veterinarian

Lorraine Moule, retired Sergeant and Animal Control officer, West
Hartford, CT and past-president of the National Animal Control
Association

Sgt. Peter Oberton, MSPCA Law Enforcement

Course Description: This is an internet class delivered through Blackboard Course Management System. It explains and discusses all aspects of animal cruelty, NH cruelty laws, and presents the importance and implications of recognizing animal cruelty and its link to human violence. Cruelty investigation procedures, prosecution protocol and officer field safety will also be presented. This is designed as a 14 week class with a “presentation” of 1 hour per week accessed by the student at their convenience within a specific 3-day time frame during the week.

Student Qualifications: Students wishing to take this course must complete an application explaining their interest and previous experience with this topic. Those working in the law enforcement, animal control, or legal fields must present a letter of endorsement from their superior. This application must be received by the instructor at least one month before the start of the scheduled class and before the student registers for the class.

Any student taking this should have strong computer skills as the course material, quizzes, exams, visuals, videos and discussions will all be presented on line.

Required Equipment: Computer (PC or Mac) with a fast internet connection, Java-enabled Internet Explorer 7.0 or greater or Netscape 7.0 or greater. Printer. Microsoft Office highly recommended.

Course Objectives: At the completion of the course the student should be able to:

- Recognize animal cruelty as defined by NH laws.
- Network with multiple agencies in multifaceted investigations.
- Assist in or conduct an animal cruelty investigation.
- Know safe and humane methods to handle and transport animals.

- Participate in the prosecution of an animal cruelty case.

Texts and Reading Materials:

All required materials will be available through Blackboard. Recommended reading materials and sources will be presented with each unit of instruction.

Course Content by Topic: (Tentative and subject to change)

- Animal Cruelty: History and Scope
- NH RSA's Pertaining to Animal Cruelty
- Neglect vs. Purposeful Cruelty
- Education vs. Prosecution of Perpetrators
- The Link Between Human Violence and Animal Cruelty
- Police Procedures Related to Animal Cruelty
 - Compliant Intake
 - Affidavits
 - Warrants
 - Search and Seizure
 - Photography, Videography
 - Animal Identification and Housing
 - Arrest
- Illegal Animal Fighting
 - Recognition
 - Investigation
 - Animal Identification and Housing
 - Prosecution
- Animal Hoarding
- Safe and Humane Animal Handling
- Humane Field Euthanasia
- Evaluation of Animals: Dogs and Cats
- Evaluation of Animals: Horses and Livestock
- Evaluation of Animals: Other
- Interagency Cooperation: State, Public, and Private Agencies in NH

Course Presentation:

Each week on Sunday evening a new topic will be posted on Blackboard. Course material may include Power Point presentations, reading packets, videos, and web links. Student is expected to go over this material at their convenience.

Each Wednesday evening a discussion (not real time) will be posted and monitored by the instructor. It will be posted until noon on Saturday. Students will be expected to monitor and participate. It will be graded.

Friday noon a quiz (True and false or multiple choice format) will be posted and must be completed via Blackboard by 9 am Monday morning.

At the end of the course the student completes an open resource cumulative final exam.

Note: Students will have an extra week the week of Thanksgiving so that they may enjoy the holiday! Discussion will be posted the Wednesday after Thanksgiving.

Grading Protocol:

Quizzes will have a number of points assigned. (Usually between 10 and 20)

Discussions will be graded on number of discussion observations, (Are you reading others posts?) number of posts and quality and helpfulness of participation. (5 points each week)

Final exam will be worth 100 points.

Grade will be based on total points. Grades will be kept and made available to students on Blackboard.

Grading system will be:

% of Points	Grade
93 -100	A
90 up to 93	A-
87 up to 90	B+
83 up to 87	B
80 up to 83	B-
77 up to 80	C+
73 up to 77	C
70 up to 73	C-
67 up to 70	D+
63 up to 67	D
60 up to 63	D-
< 60	F