Introduction to Veterinary Disaster Response

VME 6820 all sections
1 credit
University of Florida Distance Education Graduate Program in Shelter Medicine

Instructor:

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Course description:

Be prepared to respond to veterinary disaster events as a volunteer. Recognize the standards of care for operating emergency animal shelters and transporting pets before and after disaster events. Understand the need for animal shelters to maintain all-hazard plans and adapt plans in the face of a pandemic.

Course Prerequisites

Currently enrolled as a graduate student or with departmental approval.

Co-Requisites

None

Course Website

https://onlinesheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/

Course objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Know the four stages of the disaster cycle.
2. Prepare a personal disaster-readiness plan intended to prepare one's family and pets to be self-sufficient for all potential local hazards.
3. Recognize why adhering to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is important for any incident response.
4. Describe the chain of command in an emergency response used at the local, state, or national level. (Incident Command System = ICS)
5. Know where to volunteer to serve in an animal-related disaster response and what is required to become a volunteer with that agency.
6. Identify the role one might volunteer to serve in an animal-related emergency response.
7. Know why it is never appropriate to self-deploy to a disaster response.
8. Recognize barriers that might interfere with a volunteer's ability to respond to an event when activated.
9. Describe the standard-of-care that should be met in order to humanely operate a temporary emergency pet shelter.
10. Know the principles for safely decontaminating pets.
11. Create a checklist for animal intake to a temporary animal shelter.
12. Create a checklist that promotes best practices for evacuating/transporting animals between shelters during a disaster event.
13. Create a template for an animal shelter to use for all-hazard disaster planning intended to protect animal welfare and promote continuity of shelter operations.
14. Discuss the impact that COVID19 has on emergency animal sheltering, animal transports, and disaster response.

Materials and Supplies Fees
None

Required Textbooks and Software

No texts are required for this course. All readings and resources are contained within the online course management system

Reading Assignments:
All found within the modules of the course and online Course Reserves.

Required Technology: Computer with reliable, high speed internet access; your preferred web

browser; video player with ability to play MP4 videos; speakers and/or headphones and working sound; PDF reader; cell phone, camera, or other device capable of digital video recording. For more information on hardware and software necessary to run Canvas, visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2059 (Links to an external site.). Canvas offers mobile applications for both Apple (Links to an external site.) and Android (Links to an external site.) products. These apps may be downloaded in the respective app stores. Depending on the device and your equipment, not all Canvas features may be available on the app at this time. For more information on Canvas apps, visit https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1542 (Links to an external site.).

Recommended Additional Resources (Optional):
None
Course Schedule

Details about each assignment are included within the online course.

Modules/Weeks	Concepts	Assignments
1: Introduction and Course Overview/ 1 week	Familiarity with syllabus and e-learning technology	Practice quiz Discussion prompt
2: Prepare Your Family/ 2 weeks	Disaster cycle Disaster planning for family and pets for all hazards	Make a Survival Plan Discussion prompt
3: Prepare to Volunteer/ 2 weeks	PETS Act National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) Emergency Support Functions (ESF) SARTS/CARTS No self-deployment Prepare to respond Barriers to response	Quiz over readings Pack a Ready Go Bag Discussion prompt
4: Prepare for Rescues and Temporary Shelters/ 3 weeks	Technical animal rescue teams Field veterinary medical teams and triage Decontamination procedures Types of temporary animal	Quiz over readings Create a checklist for intake of pets to a temporary shelter Discussion prompt

	shelters (separate housing, co-housing, cohabiting) Setting up a temporary animal shelter Standards of care for temporary animal shelters Effects of COVID-19 on emergency sheltering	
5: Prepare to Evacuate or Shelter in Place/ 3 weeks	Best practices for animal transport Effects of COVID-19 on animal transports Best practices for sheltering in place with animals	Quiz over readings Create a checklist for animal transports Create a template for a plan to shelter in place Reflections

Evaluation of Grades

Grading Scale: **Letter Grade/% Score**

A	100-93
A-	< 93-90
B+	< 90-87
B	< 87-83
B-	< 83-80
C+	< 80-77
C	< 77-73
C-	< 73-70
D+	< 70-67
D	< 67-63
D-	< 63-60

E	< 60 -0

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:
http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Plagiarism (as defined by the UF Student Honor Code) will not be tolerated. Be sure to cite your sources and references and attribute any verbatim quotations included in your submissions and posts.

UF Maples Center for Forensic Medicine Code of Conduct and Professionalism (our Department)

Instructional Policy:
This course is part of the distance education program at the University of Florida. Instead of traditional lecture format, the medium for communication between course instructors, teaching assistants and students will be via Canvas e-learning. (http://elearning.ufl.edu)

Attendance: Students must participate in the online discussions, and are required to visit the course e-learning daily for important updates and announcements.
Additional information regarding attendance/absences can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Class Participation: Students are expected to constructively join in online discussions with appropriate preparation, to post interesting and relevant information on the class bulletin board, and to interact professionally with their classmates.

Performance Expectations: Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate level didactic course. Bulletin postings and discussions must be legible, constructive and appropriate. Students are required to think for themselves and will be expected to complete assignments that require the application of logic and reasoning skills when the answer may not be found in a book or the course notes.

Due Dates and Late Submissions: Pay close attention to the due dates posted in e-learning on your personal Dashboard and the Canvas Calendar for each assignment. Late submissions are eligible for up to 50% of the available points for each assignment.

This course is designed for working professionals like yourself. So we understand that sometimes life gets in the way of our best plans for juggling work, home, and school. If you anticipate you will likely miss a due date, request an extension in advance of the due date by

sending an email through the Canvas Inbox to your instructors that explains the reason you need more time and when you expect to submit the work. Please title these posts clearly with "REQUEST EXTENSION FOR ASSIGNMENT 6A" (or whatever you need). Please avoid overuse of this option as it interferes with your classmate's ability to complete their own assignments.

NOTE: We honor most, but not all, requests for extensions.

Grade Changes: Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made. If you think an error has been made, you should email the instructor as soon as possible. Your entire assignment will then be re-graded.

Incomplete grades: Under special circumstances, if a student is unable to finish a course before the end of the semester we may be able to assign an incomplete grade. An incomplete grade is a non-punitive grade assigned at the discretion of the course instructor. In this course an incomplete grade may be assigned if 1/3rd or more of the course assignments have been completed and if the student has remained in communication with TA's and instructors throughout the course, or has made an effort to request an incomplete grade. If an incomplete grade is assigned, outstanding assignments must be completed by the end of the next semester. If the assignments are not completed in this time you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

Students Requiring Accommodations
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance On how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

University Honesty Policy
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of

behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use
All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy
There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:
http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html

Campus Resources:
<u>Health and Wellness</u>

U Matter, We Care:
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or http://www.police.ufl.edu/.

<u>Academic Resources</u>

E-learning technical suppor*t*, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. https://www.crc.ufl.edu/.

Library Support, http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process