

Species-specific laboratory animal course on poultry and other birds (galliformes, passeriformes and columbiformes)

For whom is this course intended?

The course is intended for researchers who are currently working with or are planning to work with birds in an experimental setting. The course focuses on poultry and quail (galliformes), songbirds (passeriformes), doves and pigeons (columbiformes). Dependent on the field of research of the individual participants, the course can be expanded to include other birds, such as psittacines (psittaciformes). When (future) research activities mainly comprise field studies on wild birds, researchers are encouraged to follow the course offered by NIOO-KNAW in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

Qualifications after following the course

To become qualified to carry out the function 'designing procedures and projects' according to the new Experiments on Animals Act researchers are required to have completed both a basic course on laboratory animal science and a species-specific course concerning the species the researcher plans to work with. For more information on the different courses, including the legal requirements and prior training, see www.uu.nl/lascourse.

Course content

During the course, the following topics will be addressed:

- basics of bird behaviour, and the biology, husbandry, care and health monitoring of selected avian species used in research
- recognition of pain, suffering, distress and anxiety in birds
- performing minimally invasive procedures without anesthesia (theory and skills).

The course consists of a mixture of lectures, discussion groups, practical workshops and self-study and concludes with an exam. Further details regarding the course can be found in the study guide (which will be made accessible through the website or can be requested at lascourse-birds@uu.nl).

Workload

The number of credits that can be obtained following successful completion of the course is 1.4 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). The course comprises 40 hours (including self-study time) over 5 days, 8 hours per day (09.00-17.30 h). Participation in all parts is required to receive the certificate. A minimum of 6 participants per course is required for the course to take place; the maximum number of participant allowed is 12.

Language

The course will be given in English or Dutch, dependent on language preferences of the participants.

Questions and registration

The course is developed and coordinated by faculty members from three different departments:

- Francisca Velkers, DVM, PhD, Dip. ECPVS; Department of Farm Animal Health, f.c.velkers@uu.nl, <http://www.uu.nl/staff/FCVelkers>
- Yvonne van Zeeland, DVM, MVR, PhD, Dip. ECZM (Avian, Small mammal); Division of Zoological Medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, y.r.a.vanzeeland@uu.nl, <http://www.uu.nl/staff/YRAvanZeeland>
- Vivian Goerlich-Jansson, MSc, PhD; Department Animals in Science and Society; v.c.goerlich-jansson@uu.nl, <http://www.uu.nl/staff/VCGoerlichJansson>

For specific questions, please contact one of the coordinators of the course. For registration please send an email to lascourse-birds@uu.nl.

Course dates academic year 2016/2017

Dependent on the number of applicants, the course will be given two or three times per year. Intended course dates (subject to change):

- 3-7 October 2016
- 23-27 January 2017

In case of sufficient applications, a third course may be planned in 2016/2017.

Prices (includes all course materials) and cancellation policy

Researchers wishing to participate in the course are required to pay a fee of € 769. For employees of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University: € 615.

Please note that, if registration is canceled 7 to 21 days prior to the starting date of the course, 50% of the original costs will be charged. If cancellations are made within 7 days or less before the start of the course, or in case of no-show, the full registration fee will be charged.