



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



This species-specific laboratory animal course focuses on poultry and quail, songbirds, and pigeons, and can be expanded to include psittacines. It covers basics of bird biology, behaviour, husbandry and health monitoring, recognition of pain and suffering, and performing of minimally invasive procedures.

For whom is this course intended?

Researchers and professionals who are currently working with, or are planning to work with, birds in an experimental setting.

Entry requirements

Researchers are required to complete 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, visit [our website](#).

Start dates

August 2020, Spring 2021

Time investment

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). Participation in all parts is required to receive the certificate.

Next to the online lectures and discussion groups, practical training will take place at the Veterinary Faculty.

Location

The lectures are provided online, either recorded or live. The practical training takes part at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Yalelaan 7, 3584 CL Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Fee

External participants are required to pay a fee of €769. For employees of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University the fee is €615.

Please note that, if registration is cancelled 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.



Lecturers

The course is developed and coordinated by several faculty members:

- [Francisca Velkers](#), DVM, PhD, Dip. ECPVS; Department Population Health Sciences, Farm Animal Health, f.c.velkers@uu.nl
- [Vivian Goerlich-Jansson](#), MSc, PhD; Department Population Health Sciences, Animals in Science & Society; v.c.goerlich-jansson@uu.nl
- [Rebecca Nordquist](#), MSc, PhD; Department Population Health Sciences, Animals in Science & Society; r.e.nordquist1@uu.nl
- [Yvonne van Zeeland](#), DVM, MVR, PhD, Dip. ECZM (Avian, Small mammal); Department Clinical Sciences, Internal Medicine of Companion Animals, y.r.a.vanzeeland@uu.nl

Contact

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

Course description

The course consists of a mixture of lectures, readings, interactive workshops, practical trainings, peer interaction and concludes with a written test and presentation as examination.

The course will address the following main topics (in accordance with the EC Training and Education Document relating to Directive EU/2010/63):

- Basics of bird behaviour, and the biology, husbandry, care and health monitoring of selected avian species used in research (EU modules 3.1. & 3.2. Basic and appropriate biology, theory and practical);
- Recognition of pain, suffering, distress and anxiety in birds (EU modules 4. Animal care, health and management (theory), 5. Recognition of pain, suffering and distress – species specific, 6.1. Humane methods of killing (theory);
- Performing minimally invasive procedures without anaesthesia (theory and skills) (EU modules 7 and 8).

To assess whether the learning outcomes have been reached, the participant will be assessed based on:

- Demonstration of sufficient mastering of practical skills and demonstration of a professional attitude. This will be assessed during the practical trainings by both the teachers and observing assessors. A list of evaluation criteria (DOPS: Direct Observation of Procedural Skills) is used which will be made available for the candidates at the start of the course. During the course, participants receive feedback on their skills and attitude and if needed additional opportunities will be provided to reach the required skill level.
- A written test with questions covering the seven different modules.
- Analysis of a scientific article on a relevant experiment with poultry/other birds in small groups with help of a questionnaire that is based on the updated ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines of 2019: <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines>.

With successful participation in all parts of the course, the participant will receive a certificate. Be aware that to become qualified to carry out the function 'designing procedures and projects' according to the Dutch implementation of



the Directive EU/2010/63 in the Experiments on Animals Act, completing the basic course on laboratory animal science is also required.

See also:

- <https://www.uu.nl/en/professionals/programmes/species-specific-laboratory-animal-science>
- <https://www.uu.nl/en/professionals/programmes/laboratory-animal-science>

We recommend to follow the basic Laboratory Animal Science course before the species-specific course. In case this is not practically feasible for each participant, we also allow starting with this species-specific course. In that case, obtaining general knowledge on certain basic principles, for instance on Replacement, Reduction, Refinement (3Rs), humane endpoints and animal experiment legislation, is especially important to be able to follow and pass this course. The necessary information and study material is provided.

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.