



Veterinary Cannabis Certification

Counselor & Guide Syllabus

Course Description

This course provides 12 weeks of self-paced learning, facilitated discussion, forum and educational resources, and small-group mentorship to both medical and non-medical veterinary professionals in a joint learning environment. Students learn together with content curated for their learning track as class mentors help tailor the course material for each student's educational background and experience

After completion of the self-paced learning and live webinar classroom discussion portion of this course, students will solidify learned principles through a written examination, independently completed case studies (VCC) or a product review (VCG), and a case presentation (VCC) / attendance (VCG) at a Grand Rounds session.

The goal of this course is to provide both medical and non-medical veterinary professionals with education about the safe and scientific utilization of cannabis in veterinary medicine.

Method of Instruction

This course is structured using a Functional Flipped Classroom model of instruction. New subject material is presented in a self-paced learning format with recorded lectures, reading assignments and projects. Each of the six modules consists of pre-class work and a facilitated live discussion via webinar. Students will review course material in preparation for live classroom discussions via webinar.

Live classroom webinars occur via Zoom every 2 weeks during the course to allow students time to work through assignments and be prepared to participate in the discussion. Attendance at all six (6) live classroom webinars is required.

A VCCounselor graduate provides mentorship to groups of 5-6 currently enrolled students throughout the course.

An online discussion forum is also available for students to interact with the greater Veterinary Cannabis community throughout the length of the course.

After completion of the classroom portion of the curriculum, all students complete and submit an open-book, open-discussion written exam. VCCounselor applicants will independently conducted 6 case studies and present one of their case studies in a Grand Rounds session to practice presentation, public speaking, and webinar-facilitated teaching skills. VCGuide applicants will independently conduct a product evaluation and attend a Grand Rounds session.

Course Pre-requisites



- 1) Age: Applicants must be 21+ years at the start of class
- 2) Education & Experience:
 - VCCounselor certification (medical applicants):
either of the following
 - i. Credentialed veterinary technician with 2 years clinical experience
 - ii. Non-credentialed veterinary technician with 5 years clinical experience
 - VCGuide certification (non-medical applicants):
 - i. Associate or higher educational degree with a biology emphasis
 - ii. 5 years of animal-related professional experience
- 3) Clinical Recommendation: Signed letters of recommendation from two veterinarians
- 4) Submitted resume and headshot

Course Objectives

- Objective 1: Facilitate a joint classroom learning that encourages cross-industry idea sharing and collaboration among colleagues
- Objective 2: Introduce the endocannabinoid system (ECS) at a practical and clinically applicable level
- Objective 3: Facilitate the development of a functional understanding of the endogenous and exogenous cannabinoids on diverse body systems
- Objective 4: Facilitate student's awareness of their geographic region's current legal landscape concerning the use of cannabis medicine in animals
- Objective 5: Introduce the concept of Harm Reduction Education (HRE) and its important implications in cannabis medicine
- Objective 6: Discuss the development of safe administration guidelines for cannabis-derived molecules and monitoring schedules animal patients
- Objective 7: Introduce principles of product evaluation for safety and efficacy
- Objective 8: Discuss veterinary ethics and scope of practice around the use of cannabis medicine in animals

Textbook(s) & Required Tools or Supplies

Required textbooks: None.

- Relevant articles and/or online resources will be made available to students.

Supplies and/or tools:

- Internet-connect computer or smartphone



Curriculum Outline

Day 1 - Class Start Date – Students receive access to Module1 material and the community Forum

- Introduction to the Endocannabinoid System (ECS)
- Cannabis Plant Biology

Day 8 - Module1 classroom webinar – students discuss ^^Module1 material^^

Day 9 – Students receive access to Module2 material

- Veterinary Ethics in Cannabis Medicine
- The Veterinary Legal Landscape
- Understanding Cannabis Policies

Day 22 – Module2 classroom webinar – students discuss ^^Module2 material^^

Day 23 - Students receive access to Module3 material

- Importance of Harm Reduction Education (HRE)
- Evaluating a Product
- Interpreting Lab Reports
- Locating a Product

Day 36 – Module 3 classroom webinar – students discuss ^^Module3^^ material

Day 37 - Students receive access to Module4 material

- Clinical Importance of Molecular Complexity
- Working with Cannabidiolic Acid (CBDA)
- Working with Cannabigerol (CBG)
- Working with Cannabinol (CBN)
- A Tangle of Terpenes
- The ECS in Body Systems

Day 50 – Module 4 classroom webinar – students discuss ^^Module4^^ material

Day 51 - Students receive access to Module5 material

- Creating a Cannabis Plan
- Importance of Timing
- Importance of Monitoring
- Importance of Caregiver Journaling

Day 64 – Module 5 classroom webinar – students discuss ^^Module5^^ material

Day 65 - Students receive access to Module6 material

- Medical Recordkeeping
- What's next...Becoming a VCC
- Business Topics

Graduation Requirements

Medical | credentialed & non-credentialed veterinary technicians

Medical professionals receive the certification of Veterinary Cannabis Counselor (VCC) after successfully completing the following:

1. Attend six 2-hour live webinar sessions (attendance at every webinar is required), webinars occur every 2 weeks
2. Participate in forum discussions throughout course
3. Successfully pass a Written Evaluation (due within 30 days of completing webinars)
4. Complete six (6) Case Studies (due within 4 months of completing webinars)
5. Present one (1) Case Study at a Grand Rounds session (due within 6 months of completing webinars)

Non-medical | veterinary professionals (customer care, kennel care, groomers, trainers, etc.

Non-medical professionals receive the certification of Veterinary Cannabis Guide (VCG) after successfully completing the following:

1. Attend six 2-hour live webinar sessions (attendance at every webinar is required), webinars occur every 2 weeks
2. Participate in forum discussions throughout course
3. Successfully pass a Written Evaluation (due within 30 days of completing webinars)
4. Complete one (1) Product Evaluation (due within 30 days of completing webinars)
5. Attend one (1) Grand Rounds session (due within 6 months of completing webinars)

Continuing Education (CE) & Renewal Requirements (VCCounselors only)

VCCounselor (VCC) certifications are valid for **two** years after the date of graduation. **Eight** hours of continuing education (CE) are required for renewal. A \$45 renewal fee is required with submission of renewal. Renewal is required for VCCs only – there is no continuing education (CE) or renewal requirements for the VCGuide certification.

VCC CE requirements may be met by any of the following:

1. Veterinary, CE-approved, cannabis-specific lecture *i.e.* RACE approved CE, state board approved CE
2. Education course offered by Veterinary Cannabis or one of our global partners
3. Human-based cannabis education course/lecture with a clinical/medical focus (*approved on a case-by-case basis*).
4. Documented cannabis-focused externship / internship hours
5. Mentor VCCounselors and VCGuide students and other graduates
 - Veterinary Cannabis Grand Rounds session host
 - Documented cannabis-focused mentorship hours