

Course Title:	UConn ECE Intro to Companion Animals
Grade(s):	11th/12th

Course Description
This “hands-on” course integrates the instruction of skills and knowledge in the care and management of dogs, cats, pocket pets, and reptiles/amphibians. Concentration will be on grooming, training, and management skills in the pet industry. Students will be expected to handle and care for live animals. Students enrolled in this course are required to complete coursework showcasing field experience in the companion animal field, following UConn ECE guidelines, and complete various ECE coursework assignments. Students will also complete differentiated assessments. Throughout this course, students will: • Recognize and describe unique characteristics regarding nutrition, anatomy, genetics, reproduction, behavior, health, and care of companion animals. • Enhance and enrich knowledge and understanding of course material by meaningfully contributing to online discussions. • Discuss and evaluate responsible pet ownership and ethical or current issues regarding companion animals. • Describe examples, incidence, and occurrence of zoonotic diseases. • Explore and gain an understanding of the companion animal industry through companion animal projects.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Intro to the Companion Industry	Students will investigate the safety concepts and basic care and management that accompany small animal ownership. Students will research and evaluate career options, indicate and describe components of responsible pet ownership, and classify the key protective rights for animals.	3 weeks (September)
Unit 2: Pocket Pets &	Students will differentiate between pocket pets and rabbits, along with rabbits	3 weeks

Rabbits	versus hares. Students will identify, classify, and describe small animal species, breeds, and specific care for each. Students will practice small animal restraint and handling, as well as continue management of the small animal lab.	(September - October)
Unit 3: Dogs	Students will investigate the dog industry within companion animals and evaluate why dogs are the leading companion animal nationwide. Students will classify dog breeds into specific dog groups based on genetics and original breeding purposes. Students will evaluate the essential management practices for dog ownership, which entail proper restraint methods, grooming practices, and generalized training.	4 Weeks (October - November)
Unit 4: Cats	Students will classify common cat breeds, identify and describe essential management practices for cat ownership, and practice and refine cat restraint and handling. Students will evaluate the care and management that should be considered when owning, breeding, and caring for any breed of cat.	4 weeks (November - December)
Unit 5: Reptiles & Amphibians	Students will identify reptile and amphibian species and differentiate the species based upon cold-blood and warm-blooded species. Students will practice proper reptile handling and care while maintaining the reptile animal lab. Students will practice and classify the feeding regimens based on the types of species and diets needed to thrive.	3 weeks (December - January)