

Syllabus

Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization for Wildlife Professionals - WILD 472

Instructor information

Instructor: Mark R. Johnson DVM, Affiliate Faculty
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Course description:

Dr. Mark Johnson, instructor, is dedicated to supporting wildlife professionals with humane capture and handling through training & field assistance. This unique course focuses on the field-based needs for chemical immobilization of captive and free-ranging wildlife. This class is one of the most extensive chemical immobilization courses in North America and it is invaluable to any student developing their career to become a state, federal, or tribal wildlife professional, zoo caretaker, or animal control officer. This is not your typical science course. The material promotes care, honor, and respect for every animal that is handled and are often profound personal and career experiences for those attending. And we discuss how to bring heart and compassion into our science so that we can participate in mind, body, and spirit - making us an even better wildlife professional.

Course content includes:

- Five-step Preparation for Field Operations
- Legal Responsibilities
- Professionalism
- Drug Delivery Systems
- Immobilizing Drugs
- Patient Monitoring
- Marking
- Sampling
- Veterinary Emergencies
- Euthanasia
- Human Safety
- The Y Pole
- Honoring each animal through equipment and techniques

Learning Outcomes:

The successful participant will be able to:

1. Discuss ethical issues relating to wildlife capture & handling within a professional context.
2. Identify legal responsibilities associated with wildlife chemical immobilization.
3. Develop & maintain documentation for a chemical immobilization program.
4. Initiate a five-step preparation method for organizing field operations.
5. Understand and discuss advantages & disadvantages of various drug delivery systems.
6. Walk through basic steps and procedures in processing wildlife captured for research.
7. Utilize professional skills, equipment, and attitudes to convey clear messages to the media and public about animal care and professional handling.
8. Follow safety measures which protect field personnel and the public.
9. Understand basic veterinary procedures for patient care and processing including:
 - a. Monitoring temperature, pulse, and respiration.
 - b. Collecting blood and other samples.
 - c. Preventing and treating simple veterinary emergencies.

Required textbooks:

No textbook is required. A faculty pack (course notebook) is available at the bookstore.

Course Calendar:

Course dates are Jan. 22-24, 2016 which are the last three days of Winter Break

Required assignments and tests:

None

Attendance

Attendance is required all three days. A roll call is randomly called each day.

Disability modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Assignment expectations

There is a home assignment for the evening of the first day. It will be covered in class on Day 2 but will not be handed in.

There is a course homework assignment Due Feb. 1, 2016 that is required for passing the course. The assignment is provided in the course notebook.

Grading policy

This is a Credit/No Credit course (formerly called Pass/Fail). Requirements to pass the course are attending all three days and handing in the required homework assignment by Feb. 1, 2016.