

Syllabus

Wildlife Handling and Chemical Immobilization for Wildlife Professionals - WILD 472 Jan. 15-17, 2022, 304 Stone Hall

Instructor information

Instructor: Mark R. Johnson DVM, Affiliate Faculty

Office: Please contact me by email

Email: mjohnson@wildliferesources.com

Phone: 406.570.3915

Office hours: Contact me anytime by email or by phone when necessary

Course Dates: January 15-17 (Saturday-Monday), 2022 (Last weekend of Winter Break)

Course Location: Stone Hall 304

Course description:

This unique course focuses on the field-based needs of wildlife biologists for chemical immobilization of captive and free-ranging wildlife. This class is one of the most current and extensive chemical immobilization courses in North America and 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. In addition to providing one of the strongest foundations in chemical capture, Dr. Mark promotes care, honor, and respect for every animal that is handled as we incorporate these values into our tools, techniques, and mannerisms. This course is often a profound personal and career experience for those attending. ***Due to class size, there will be no hands-on labs. We will have many videos showing you procedures handling wildlife in the field.***

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 course pack (course notebook) will be available at the U MT bookstore. Be sure to pick up your course notebook by noon on Thursday. If you unable to do so, the remaining course packs will be sold at the classroom.

Course Calendar:

Course dates are January 15-17 (Sat- Mon), 2022 which are the last three days of Winter Break

Required assignments and tests:

One homework assignment will be in the course pack and must be emailed to the instructor by Feb. 1, 2022

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, 2022 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, 2022.

Instructor Information

Dr. Mark Johnson is the wildlife veterinarian and founder of Global Wildlife Resources (GWR) in Freeland, Washington. GWR specializes in wildlife capture and handling and has provided training and field assistance for over 25 years. Dr. Mark teaches practical and effective field-based training while promoting care, honor, and respect for each animal thus bringing heart-felt values into our science and profession. Dr. Mark was Project Veterinarian for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1995-96 gray wolf reintroduction program into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho and was the wildlife veterinarian for Yellowstone National Park for four years. He is a primary instructor for the USDA Wildlife Services and has taught courses exclusively for state wildlife agency biologists in Michigan and Maine. He is Affiliate Faculty of University of Montana.

With every course Dr. Mark strives to support and empower each student and professional as well as improve the well-being of each animal handled for wildlife research and management. He is also learning from every course with new information, tools, and techniques and has acquired an exceptionally strong understanding of wildlife chemical immobilization in North America.

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