

***NOVA and ANIWEL PhD-Course:
Animal ethics***

ECTS: 5

Course dates: 11-15. June 2012

Course location: Sannäs Manor, Porvoo, Finland

http://www.sannaskartano.fi/index_eng.html

Main teachers:

Peter Sandøe (PS), Professor, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen

Helena Röcklinsberg (HR), University lecturer, Department of Animal Environment and Health, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Anna Valros (AV), Professor, Department of Production Animal Medicine, University of Helsinki

Course objectives:

Basic knowledge of animal ethics is central for all researchers working with animal-related topics, irrespective of specific field. Such knowledge is needed to be able to relate to public discussions about various forms of animal use. In addition, it is important for professionals within animal-related areas to be able to make ethical decisions related to animal management, care and handling. These professions include e.g. veterinarians, advisors, legislators and politicians. During this course, students are introduced to animal ethics, its theories and methods of ethical thinking. Cases related to farm and companion animals will be in focus, but other forms of animal use will also be brought into the discussions.

After the course the students will have increased ability to combine knowledge within biology and ethical reasoning, better understand the different points of view found in the public debate, better understand the impact of their own decisions and be able to develop a theoretically well founded ethical reasoning of their own. They will also understand the interface between science and ethics and understand the limitations and possibilities of science when making informed decisions regarding animal use

Pre-required knowledge:

The course is open to PhD-students within a broad range of areas (including veterinary science, animal science, biology, philosophy and social sciences), with an interest in animal ethics and a basic understanding of domestic animal management and welfare

NOTE: *This course will be organised in cooperation with the ANIWEL graduate school at the University of Helsinki. Non-NOVA-students within the ANIWEL school will be funded by ANIWEL. In addition, a limited amount of places will be made available for non-Nordic students and students from social sciences to ensure multidimensional and –disciplinary discussions*

Examination elements:

The students will prepare a post-course assignment that will be evaluated by the teachers. In addition, active participation throughout the course and completing the pre-course assignments are necessary for course completion

Pre-course assignment:

Pre-course assignments include preparing a short oral presentation of issues of animal ethics in the students' own PhD-project, to be presented at the course. In addition, students should read the course literature before the course starts. The course literature includes a book by the main teacher (Sandøe and Christiansen, Ethics of Animal Use, Blackwell 2008) and relevant articles.

Post-course assignment:

Students are expected to prepare a max. 3-page paper discussing ethical considerations in relation to animals within their own research topic/area. The paper should be based on the presentation given during the course and should clearly show the learning outcomes of the course. Alternatively, if they are writing a scientific paper they could include ethical reasoning in this one, as regards reflection on research question, method, performance and presentation of the research. Deadline for submitting the paper will be 6 weeks after the course and the papers will be evaluated by the main teachers

Course contents:

The main theories in animal ethics, including theories about what is a good animal life, are presented together with discussions about how to relate these theories to various forms of animal use. The main theories to be presented and discussed are contractarianism, utilitarianism, animal rights, deontology and virtue ethics. Farm animals, companion animals and veterinary ethics will be the main topics, but also examples concerning experimental animals and wild animals will be included. The focus will be on the interface between animal ethics, the biological study of animal welfare and social science approaches to animal use. The ethical component of the course will be supported by lectures from natural scientists that represent issues relevant to animal ethics. The exact content of these lectures, as well as the teachers will be determined based on the interests and background of the students

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

| Date | Time | Activity | Teachers |
|--|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| Monday, Day 1 June 11 | 10:00-10:30 | Welcome, presentation of teachers and students, introduction to course aims and teaching methods | PS, HR, AV |
| | 10:30-12:00 | Lecture: Ethics, values and science | PS |
| | 12:30-13:30 | Lunch | |
| | 13:30-15:00 | Student discussion: why is animal ethics relevant in my work? | PS, HR |
| | 15:00-15:30 | Coffee | |
| | 15:30-17:00 | Lecture: Changing face of animal ethics – Where are we heading? | HR, PS |
| | 17:15-18:00 | Lecture: Developments in use of farm animals and in man's view of animals | AV |
| | 19:00- | Dinner and get-together | |
| Tuesday, Day 2 June 12 | 8:30-10:00 | Lecture: Overview lecture of theories of animal ethics | PS, HR |
| | 10:00-10:30 | Coffee | |
| | 10:30-12:00 | Lecture: Animal ethics theories 1: Utilitarianism, Contractarianism | PS |
| | 12:00-13:30 | Lunch and outdoor walk | |
| | 13:30-15:00 | Lecture: Animal ethics theories 2: Deontology, Virtue ethics | HR |
| | 15:00-15:30 | Coffee | |
| | 15:30-17:00 | Exercise: Using Animal Ethics Dilemma | |
| | 18:00-19:00 | Dinner | |
| | 19:00-20:00 | Evening case: Thinking out of the box: Borderline animals | PS |
| Wednesday Day 3 June 13 | 8:30-10:00 | Lecture: Definitions of animal welfare and their role in animal welfare research | AV |
| | 10:00-10:30 | Coffee | |
| | 10:30-12:00 | Lecture: Relevance and limits of animal welfare research for animal ethics | AV |
| | 12:00-13:30 | Lunch and outdoor walk | |
| | 13:30-15:00 | Student presentations, round 1 (Issues of animal ethics in my own project) | |
| | 15:00-15:30 | Coffee | |
| | 15:30-17:00 | Lecture: Development of farm animal production and intensive animal production – moral strategies | PS |
| | 19:00- | Sauna and dinner | |
| Thursday, Day 4 June 14 | 8:30-10:30 | Lecture: Ethical questions related to pets and veterinary treatments Cases: Neutering and surgery on brachiocephalic dogs | PS |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Coffee | |
| | 11:00-12:30 | Invited lecture on relevant topic & Panel debate with students: 'where are the ethical limits in farming and companion animals – theory and practice?' | Invited teacher 1 |
| | 12:30-13:30 | Lunch and outdoor walk | |
| | 13:30-15:00 | Student presentations, round 2 | |
| | 15:00-15:30 | Coffee | |
| | 15:30-17:00 | Farm animal breeding and biotechnology – ethical presentations | PS |
| | 19:00- | Course dinner | |
| Friday, Day 5 June 15 | 9:00-10:30 | Lecture: Legislation in EU and Nordic countries | Invited teacher 2, PS |
| | 10:30-11:00 | Coffee | |
| | 11:00-12:30 | Student presentations, round 3 | |
| | 12:30-13:30 | Lunch | |
| | 13:30-15:00 | What is my main take home message? Course evaluation. Summing up and closing the course | PS, AV |
| | 15:00-15:30 | Coffee and departure | |