

## ANSC 291/485: Canine Socialization and Training

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### **Course Goals**

Socializing laboratory animals is beneficial to their welfare, promotes a positive human-animal relationship, and can enhance the quality and accuracy of research results. This course concerns the implementation of a socialization program for laboratory animals.

### **Specific objectives**

- 1) Gain experience applying the principles of operant conditioning to dog behavior
- 2) Habituate dogs to regular human interactions
- 3) Train dogs to perform basic commands important to laboratory dog husbandry

### **Expectation of the student**

Students are expected to work independently. Reliability and consistency is key to maximizing the experiences for the dogs and efficacy of the training sessions.

### **Students will be expected to:**

- 1) Spend three (3) 30-minute sessions per week interacting with each of the assigned dogs.
- 2) Be reliable and consistent.
- 3) Conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- 4) Ask for assistance when further clarification is needed.

### **Conduct at the research facilities**

1. Facilities can be accessed Monday – Friday (8am – 5pm), Saturday (8am – 12pm) and Sunday (8am – 12pm). Students will schedule their times for training on a class googledocument at least one week in advance.
2. The gate code is 25253
3. Upon arrival at the facility, students must change into scrubs and boots issued by the research facility. Students will use clickers and treat bags provided and kept at the research facility.
4. No cellular phones or backpacks are allowed in the kennels.
5. Each student must complete a daily log of session duration and activities.

## **Assignments**

1. **Weekly journal entry:** students are expected to keep a weekly journal, kept at the research facility, that records their socialization activities as well as reflecting on their experiences with these animals.
2. **Short essay:** a 250-word essay about what was learned during the semester.
3. **Practical test:** students will demonstrate commands the dog learned during the semester.

## **Grading**

A point system will be used to indicate the relative weight of exams, quizzes, presentations, etc.

Assignment	Points	Grade	Point Range
Weekly journal entry	100	A	627-700
Session log completion	100	B	557-626
Short essay	50	C	487-556
Participation	350	D	417-486
Practical test	100	F	< 417
Total points possible	700		

## **Class structure**

**Week 1:** Students should attend one of two orientation sessions and complete the online trainings

Biosafety and Occupational Health: <https://bohp.tamu.edu/>

CITI training for IACUC: <http://rcb.tamu.edu/animals/resources/citi-training-for-iacuc>

**Week 2:** Students should attend one of the two facility tours and receive dog assignments. Training will be begin during Week 2.

**Weeks 3-15:** Students will work independently with their assigned animals and will make weekly journal entries

***Students will schedule their times for training on a Google Doc at least one week in advance.***

**Week 16:** Students will attend one of two sessions to conduct the practical exam

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

*“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”*

The Aggie Honor System was recently revised. It now requires that a report of scholastic dishonesty will be submitted by the faculty member to the Aggie Honors Council for handling and checking for repeat offenders. In the past instructors could handle it themselves by, for example, giving a student an F in the class. But now, reports bypass both the department and college, and all reports will be taken care of in a “consistent” manner. Which means it is entered on the student’s record.

Because of consequences for the student, knowledge of the Aggie Honor Code, from definitions of academic misconduct to the process and sanctions that may result, is important. All aspects are described on the Aggie Honor System website [www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/](http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/).

### **From TAMU Student Rules**

Student Rule 2.15: Plagiarism is the intentional use of ideas, words or data of another person without giving appropriate credit.

Student Rule 20.1: Commission of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty.

20.1.3: Plagiarism: Failing to credit sources used in a work product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources.

20.1.4: Conspiracy: Agreeing with one or more persons to commit any act of scholastic dishonesty.

“The usual penalty for a first plagiarism violation is an F in the class and an honor violation probation. That means the student loses certain rights, including the right to represent the university off campus, hold office in a campus organization, or receive an Aggie ring. Students can remove those restrictions (but not the F) by successfully completing a remediation course.”  
(from the Writing Center)