

Raptor Academy – Medical Care and Management of Raptors

Description:

This 6-week course introduces you to the diagnosis and treatment of common raptor injuries and diseases and provides tips on managing raptors in captivity throughout the rehabilitation process.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Use best practices when treating different kinds of wounds.
2. List fracture management techniques and identify when surgery yields the most positive outcome.
3. Identify common infectious diseases of raptors.
4. Describe principles of biosecurity.
5. Create a diet plan for a thin patient.
6. Prevent, identify, and treat captive-related injuries.

Course Assignments and Grading:

Major Assignment Descriptions

You will be asked to watch and/or take part in the live interactions with your instructor(s) and participate in discussions with staff and other students each week. If you are unable to attend, a recording of the presentation will be made available on Wednesdays. To reinforce key points, you will be asked to contribute to weekly discussions with TRC clinic staff and other students.

Online Interactions

Live, **online** interactions with your instructor(s) via a Zoom meeting are scheduled once each week and will be recorded. Times are: Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. CST (3:00 p.m. AKT; 5:00 p.m. PT; 6:00 p.m. MT; 8:00 p.m. ET).

Class Participation

Class participation is highly encouraged. All interactions in class should be civil, respectful, and supportive of an inclusive learning environment for all students. Concerns regarding participation or online classroom dynamics should be directed to the course instructor via email at clvitek@umn.edu.

Grading

This course is not graded. However, **in order to earn CE credits**, you must do the following:

- Create 2 discussion posts for each week's topic
- Watch or participate in at least 5 of the 6 weekly live instructor interactions

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Activities

Note: *The live interactions are on Tuesday, and the discussions will begin the following day each Wednesday and can be found by clicking on Discussions on your left navigation pane. Staff will contribute to and monitor each discussion until the next live interaction.*

Each week, there is a pdf copy of the presentation you can download prior to the live interaction to enhance your note-taking.

Activities: Each week we ask that you contribute to a discussion based on that week's topic, applying previous knowledge as well as what you have learned. The discussion questions are created by and monitored by the instructor to provide answers to questions and to ensure accuracy.

Live instructor interaction each Tuesday at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. CT. It will be recorded and uploaded to the course site on Wednesday morning, so if you are unable to attend it live you can view it at your leisure. This is when your instructor will present topics you will cover that week and you have the chance to ask questions. Remember to download the pdf copy of the presentation prior to this interaction.

Week One

Soft-tissue Wounds: Common Injuries and Management Techniques

Live session February 8, 7pm central

The Learner will be able to:

- Recognize principles of soft tissue wound management
- Identify best practices in soft tissue wound management
- Discuss common soft tissue wound presentations in raptors presented for rehabilitation

Topics:

- Classification of wounds
- Stages of wound healing
- Wound Management
- Relevant avian anatomy & guidelines
- Wound cleaning
- Wound closure & bandaging
- Common examples of soft tissue wounds
- Internal Trauma - Clinical signs and treatment

Week Two

Fracture Management

Live session February 15, 7pm central

The learner will be able to:

- Identify and characterize fractures on a physical exam
- Determine which fractures are generally best managed with surgery vs. conservative management
- Identify the benefits and challenges of surgical fracture fixation and conservative fracture management
- Identify how long fractures generally take to heal and when a raptor patient is ready to begin flight conditioning

Topics:

- Fracture assessment
- Treatment plans
- General healing times
- Physical therapy
- Assessment: When to start flight conditioning

Week Three

Special Topics

Live session February 22, 7pm central

The learner will be able to:

- Recognize clinical presentations and prognosis of head and spinal trauma
- Recognize ocular abnormalities in raptors
- Understand prognosis and treatment challenges of starving raptors
- Recognize and differentiate clinical presentations of toxicities in raptors

Topics:

- Head Trauma
- Spinal Trauma
- Ocular Disease
- Starvation
- Toxicity

----- **BREAK, no live session week of March 1** -----

Week Four

Biosecurity and Raptor Ailments

Live session March 8, 7pm central

The learner will be able to:

- Understand principles of infectious disease
- Identify best practices in biosecurity
- Discuss common infectious diseases in clinical raptor medicine

Topics:

- Principles of infectious disease
- Zoonotic diseases
- Biosecurity
- Common infectious diseases of raptors

Week Five

Captive Management

Live session March 15, 7pm central

The learner will be able to:

- Understand general goals of raptor housing
- Choose an appropriate housing structure for patients throughout their convalescence
- Provide proper perches and housing aids
- Follow best practices for biosecurity and sanitation
- Know when to use liquid formula diets
- Know what constitutes "safe" food items and use best practices to store, thaw, and prepare them
- Learn basic fundamental of the three basic types of food presentation methods

Topics:

- Housing goals
- Critical care housing
- Convalescence housing
- Sanitation
- Providing nutrition to newly admitted patients
- Liquid formula diets
- Feeding the stable patient
- Food acquisition and storage
- Food preparation

Week Six

Captive-related Injuries

Live session March 22, 7pm central

The learner will be able to:

- Recognize injuries caused by captivity
- Provide treatment for early stages of captive-related injuries
- Learn methods to prevent captive-related injuries

Topics:

- Bumblefoot
- Lost talon sheaths
- Carpal injuries
- Feather damage
- Cere injuries