

The course team



Jolanda Pluijmakers, DIP CABC, CCAB, PhD

I am the programme coordinator of this Postgraduate Degree course in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare and of the Postgraduate Degree course in Applied Animal Behaviour of Odisee University College.

I am passionate about promoting companion animal behaviour and welfare. I have directed a dog training centre and companion animal behaviour clinic since 1997. I hold a Postgraduate Degree of the University of Southampton in Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling and am a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist by ASAB.

At the University of Bristol I conducted a PhD into developmental and other predisposing factors contributing to behavioural disorders related to fear and anxiety in the domestic dog.

At the moment I divide my time between lecturing, companion animal behaviour counselling and research into the behaviour and welfare of shelter dogs.



David Appleby, MSc CCAB

I am the co-coordinator of this Postgraduate Degree course and a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist (CCAB) and a Honorary Life Member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC). I have previous dog training experience with the Royal Air Force Police and as a Guide Dog for the Blind Mobility Instructor. I was also head instructor for the equine club at RAF Akrotiri, where I was responsible for the training of horses and their riders.

My career as a clinical animal behaviourist started in 1986 when I was still working for Guide Dogs for the Blind and I started my practice on a full time basis in 1987. I was amongst the first students to be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling by the University of Southampton. I went on to complete an MSc, also at Southampton University.

Until 2009 I was based at the Pet Behaviour Centre in Worcestershire, UK, and held referral clinics throughout the midlands. For over twenty years I was also the visiting behaviour counsellor to Queens Veterinary School, Cambridge University.

I now live in Finland where my wife, Tuulia, and I run a referral practice from AB Klinikka, a joint veterinary and animal behaviour clinic. We also established and now run the behaviour clinic at Helsinki University Veterinary School, where we also lecture to the veterinary students and help supervise research projects.

I am a frequent lecturer in a number of European countries. Until its closure in 2010, I was a lecturer on the Companion Animal behaviour Counselling (clinical animal behaviour) Course at the University

of Southampton. My relevant experience within the profession includes the fact that I was a founder member and previous chairman for the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC), served on the committee of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association's affiliated Companion Animal Behaviour Therapy Study Group and the accreditation committee for the Certification of Clinical Animal Behaviourists (CCAB).



Xavier Manteca, BVSc, MSc, PhD, Diplomate ECAWBM

I am a veterinarian by training and very soon during my undergraduate years I discovered that animal behaviour was what I really wanted to work on. After graduating at the Vet School in Barcelona I completed the MSc on "Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare" at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, United Kingdom. I then went back to Barcelona where I did my PhD.

I am currently Professor at the Vet School of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where I teach animal behaviour and animal welfare. Our group is made up by a total of 10 people, including post-docs and PhD students, and we run several postgraduate courses on animal behaviour and welfare. Apart from our teaching activities, we do research on companion, farm and zoo animal behaviour and welfare, and are involved in several extension activities as well.

I am currently president of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine.



Dr. Anouck Haverbeke, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ECAWBM (BM)

I qualified as a veterinarian from Ghent University (Belgium) in 2001, defending a thesis about the welfare of horses. Subsequently I obtained a PhD in Ethology at the University of Namur (Belgium) in 2009. This PhD research improved the security, efficiency and welfare among the working dogs and their handlers at the Belgian Defense. This project has been perceived as the groundwork of forthcoming research, identifying significant improvements in the way working dogs should be raised and/or procured, trained and employed - not to mention their welfare and the human animal relationship.

Since 2009, I have directed a veterinary behavioural practice. I conduct ongoing research on Ethology and Human Animal Interactions with collaboration of the University of Namur. I am a frequent lecturer in Belgium and abroad on the topic of Animal Behaviour and human-animal interactions. I am author of several peer-reviewed articles and regularly asked to review for peer-reviewed journals.

Since 2013, I am a European Veterinary Specialist in Behavioural Medicine (ECAWBM-BM).



Marta Amat, BVSc, MSc, PhD, Diplomate ECAWBM

I am a veterinarian by training and after obtaining my degree at the School of Veterinary Science in Barcelona I spent several years in private practice. Being convinced that I wanted to develop a career in the field of animal behaviour and welfare, I went back to the University, where I completed an MSc and obtained a PhD. My PhD thesis was on aggressive behaviour of dogs and cats.

I am currently employed as postdoctoral researcher at the Vet School of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. My job includes both teaching and research, and since 2008 I am responsible for the Animal Behaviour Clinic of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. My main areas of interest in research are aggressive behaviour and anxiety in dogs and cats, and physiological markers of stress in companion animals.

I am de facto diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine.



Stef Aerts, Ir., PhD

I am an animal production engineer by training, graduated from the University of Leuven (Belgium). From 2002 to 2008 I worked at the Centre for Science, Technology and Ethics (KU Leuven) where I obtained my PhD in 2006 focusing on the ethical and societal aspects of animal production, including ethical evaluation systems and the evaluation of animal welfare at farm level.

Currently, I am the director of the agriculture and biotechnology program at Odisee University College, but still affiliated to the KU Leuven ethics centre where I did my PhD research (now Ethics@Arenberg). My research and teaching is mainly related to animal ethics, including pet animals. The definition and evaluation of animal welfare is still one of my favourite topics.

Since 2003 I am a member of the European Society for Agriculture and Food Ethics (EurSafe), where I was elected Board Member in 2013.



Christine Halsberghe DVM, VC ENVF

I qualified in 1979 as a veterinarian from Ghent University (Belgium) and spent many years working in my private practice in Kortrijk (Belgium). During those years I developed a special interest in animal behaviour. In 2002, I received my diploma as Vétérinaire Comportementaliste des Ecoles Vétérinaires Françaises.

I divide my time between working in my private practice with referral service for behavioural cases and for DAVALON. I am also lecturing and teaching on animal behaviour at the Postgraduate Course in Applied Animal Behaviour of Odisee University College.

I am the president of the Flemish Veterinary behavioural group (VDWE) and secretary of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology (ESVCE).



Anne McBride, BSc, PhD, Cert.Cons., MAPBC, Hon. Mem.TCBTS, Hon.Mem. BVNA

My first degree was in Psychology from University College London, where I also undertook my PhD in animal behaviour, my thesis was on social and parental behaviour in domestic rabbits. I worked with animals and people in a variety of contexts including laboratories, hill farming and zoo keeping. In 1987 I entered the field of Companion Animal Behaviour where I applied my knowledge of learning theory, human and animal behaviour to running a behaviour clinic and training classes for puppies and dogs. In training I have always emphasised the teaching the dog Life Skills and general obedience, and teaching training skills to the owners.

In 1994 I set up the first European course in Companion Animal behaviour Counselling (*clinical animal behaviour*) at the University of Southampton. I was director of this postgraduate Diploma / MSc until its closure in 2010. I am a Senior lecturer in Psychology at Southampton, an Honorary Associate Professor at the Veterinary School at the University of Nottingham and Honorary Member of the British Veterinary Nursing Association. I teach nationally and internationally on my areas of academic interest, namely animal behaviour, and human-animal interactions and their effects on the welfare of humans and animals.

My career has been driven by my belief in the need to raise knowledge and skills standards of professionals working in the human-animal field, and thus, through them, of animal owners and keepers. I am Chair of the Programme Recognition Committee of the UK's Animal Behaviour and Training Council. This Council is the organisation recognised by the UK government as being central to the professionalisation of Animal Trainers, Animal Training Instructors and Clinical Animal Behaviourists. In my other life, I love cooking, walking, laughing and my favourite book is still Winnie the Pooh 😊.



Anne Seawright, PhD

I graduated from the University of Bristol Veterinary School in 2004. After graduating, I worked in a busy small animal hospital before returning to the University of Bristol in 2006 to start a 3 year training scholarship in Small Animal Behavioural Medicine. During this time I undertook a research project looking at Feline Idiopathic Cystitis. Following this I remained at the University of Bristol to undertake a PhD looking at measures of emotional state and individual differences in dogs. Currently I run my own veterinary behaviour referral consultancy in the South West of England whilst completing the writing up of my PhD.



Adinda Sannen, MSc, PhD

Trained as biologist (MSc, Antwerp University, 1998), animal behaviour has always captured my interest. As such, my PhD research (Antwerp University, 2003) focussed on the relation between hormones and behaviour in primates.

I currently work at Odisee University College (Belgium) where I conduct research on various topics concerning animal behaviour and welfare. Furthermore, I lecture ethology with special reference to the evolutionary framework.

Additionally together with Jolanda I coordinate the Postgraduate Degree course in Applied Animal Behaviour (Odisee).



Hilde Vervaecke, BSc, MSc, PhD

I have a keen interest in humans and primates and graduated as Biological Anthropologist at UC-Davis and UC-London. In my subsequent PhD in Biology at the University of Antwerp I studied sexual competition and dominance in bonobos and I tackled the same question – why should females bother about competition - during my post-doctoral research on American bison. Since then, I started teaching and researching applied animal welfare questions at the Odisee University College. We embrace a broad field of animals (farm animals, companion animals, laboratory animals,...) from crayfish to zebras. I love the relevance of our studies in the every-day-practices and the impact we can have on legislation. I teach Ethology and Animal Welfare courses to our students in Agro-and Biotechnology and coordinate our research group “Salto”. As a member of the Commission of Zoo Animals I take part in the discussions about the welfare of wild animals in captivity.



Anthony Podberscek, PhD

I received my veterinary degree and Ph.D. (in animal behaviour and human–animal interactions) from the University of Queensland, Australia. From 1992 to 2015, I was a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Cambridge. Since January 2015, I have been an affiliate of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, working at the Charles Perkins Centre. Since 1997, I have also been the editor-in-chief of Anthrozoös, a multidisciplinary journal of the interactions of people and animals. My research interests include companion animal behaviour, the treatment of animal behavioural problems, attitudes to animals and animal welfare, and cultural aspects of human–animal interactions. I am a Board member of the International Society for Anthrozoology and am an Honorary Scientific Adviser to the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors.



Christos Karagiannis DVM, MSc, Resident ECAWBM, MRCVS

I am a veterinarian, qualified from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. After spending some time working in small animal clinics in Greece, I realised that “Veterinary Behavioural Medicine” is the field that I would like to work on. My next step was to move in UK and completed the MSc in “Clinical Animal Behaviour” at the University of Lincoln and then my residency for the “European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine” in the Animal Behaviour Clinic of the same University.

I then went back to Greece. I am currently running the first veterinary behaviour service for dogs and cats in Greece and I am teaching in both Veterinary Schools of the country about animal behaviour. My main research interests are about companion animal behaviour and welfare.