Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: Veterinary Medicine

Course Unit Title: Principles of Epidemiology

Course Unit Code: 3DVM1I17

Name of Lecturer(s): Aleksandar S. Potkonjak

Type and Level of Studies: Doctoral academic studies

Course Status (compulsory/elective): elective

Semester (winter/summer): winter

Language of instruction: English

Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): face-to-face

Number of ECTS Allocated: 6

Prerequisites: no

Course Aims:

Course introduces the concepts of epidemiology and biostatistics as applied to veterinary medicine and public health problems. Emphasis is placed on the principles and methods of epidemiologic investigation, appropriate summaries and displays of data, and the use of classical statistical approaches to describe the health of populations. Topics include the dynamic behavior of disease; usage of rates, ratios and proportions; methods of direct and indirect adjustment. Various epidemiologic study designs for investigating associations between risk factors and disease outcomes are also introduced, culminating with criteria for causal inferences.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of this course, students will be able to apply principles of epidemiology and biostatistics to the prevention of disease and the improvement of health. Also, students will be able to: distinguish the roles and relationships between epidemiology and biostatistics in the prevention of disease and the improvement of health; overcome compute basic descriptive statistics and use data from analytic methods; demonstrate a understanding of epidemiologic methods and study design; as combine appropriate epidemiological concepts and statistical methods.

Syllabus:

Roles of quantitative methods. Quantifying and comparing measures. Quantifying the natural history of disease. Probability concepts and their use in evaluation of diagnostic tests. Epidemiologic study designs. Estimating risk and interpretation of data from epidemiologic studies. Applying epidemiology to evaluation public health policy.

Required Reading: Rothman K.J. et al. Modern Epidemiology. Thrid edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008.; Krämer A. Modern Infectious Disease Epidemiology: Concepts, Methods, Mathematical Models, and Public Health. 2010 edition, Springer, 2010.; Salman M. Animal Disease Surveillance and Survey Systems: Methods and Applications. First edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2003.; Cameron A. Data Management for Animal Health, In: AusVet Series in Epidemiological Skills for Animal Health. AusVet Animal Health Services Brisbane, Vol 1., Australia, 2004.Sergeant E. et al. Epidemiological Problem Solving, In: AusVet Series in Epidemiological Skills for Animal Health. AusVet Animal Health Services Brisbane, Vol 2., Australia, 2004.

Weekly Contact Hours: Lectures: 3 Practical work: 3

Teaching Methods: Direct instruction (Lecture, compare and contrast), Indirect instruction (Problem solving, Case studies), Experimential learning (Conducting experiments, Focused imaging, Field observations, Surveys), Instructional skills (Explaining, demonstrating).

Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):			
Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points
Active class	0	written exam	50
participation		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
Practical work	0	oral exam	0
Preliminary exam(s)	0	Project presentation	50
Seminar(s)	0		

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.