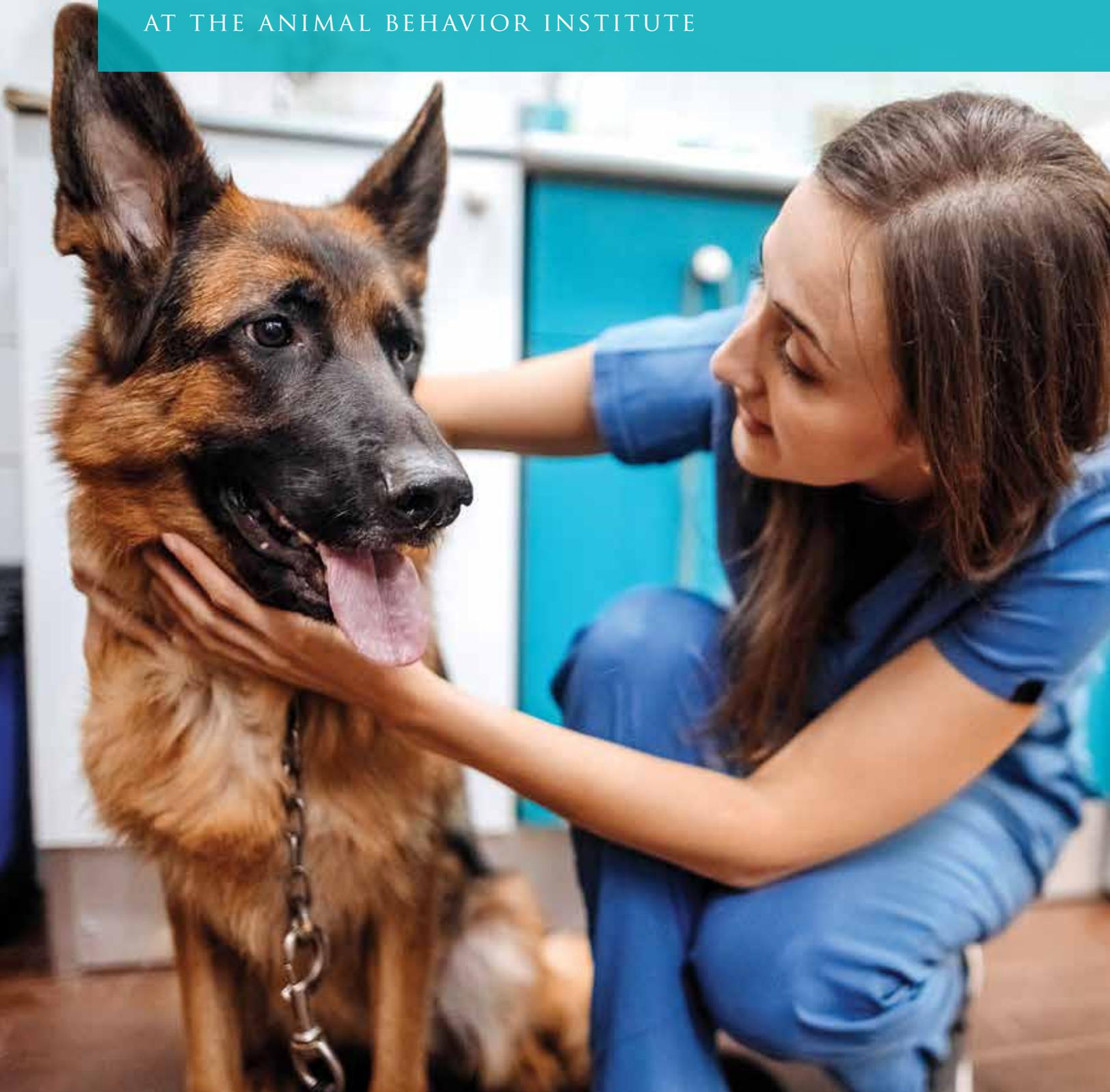


VETERINARY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

AT THE ANIMAL BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE



A more personal education



MEANINGFUL

WHAT

DO VETERINARY ASSISTANTS DO?

Veterinary assistants typically work under the supervision of veterinarians and veterinary technicians. They perform routine animal care but also assist the veterinarian with surgical preparation, nursing care, collecting lab samples, administering oral medications, and preparing animals for radiology or ultrasound procedures.

Veterinary assistants work closely with clients, consulting, interviewing, and explaining procedures. Thus, they need to have strong communication skills and empathy for clients dealing with difficult or emotional situations. The job can be physically demanding; you may need to lift heavy animals or work on your feet for a full shift.

Veterinary assistants work in entry-level positions. They typically do not need to be licensed; however, requirements may differ by state. You do not need a college degree or formal education to be employed as a veterinary assistant. However, the vocational training provided by the Animal Behavior Institute will prepare you to enter the field and can enhance your job prospects.

Veterinary Assistant Programs at the Animal Behavior Institute

Veterinary Assistant

The Veterinary Assistant training program will provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to be an effective part of the veterinary care team, providing effective assistance as you work alongside the staff. Our program covers office procedures, anatomy and physiology, nursing care, surgical prep, imaging, medications, and clinical procedures. You'll learn how to manage clients and help maintain a clean, professional environment for your patients.

Advanced Veterinary Assistant

The Advanced Veterinary Assistant training program builds upon the skills developed in the Veterinary Assistant program, including office procedures, nursing, veterinary procedures, and surgical assistance. The advanced program requires two electives, one in nutrition and one in behavior, in addition to the three required courses in the basic Veterinary Assistant program. Your nutrition elective will provide you with a detailed knowledge of animal nutrition, health, and emergency procedures, including pet CPR. Your second elective will improve your understanding of natural and problematic behaviors, behavioral conditioning, behavioral enrichment, and body language. This training will allow you to be a more effective member of the veterinary care team.

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PERSONAL

WHO

EMPLOYS VETERINARY ASSISTANTS?

Most veterinary assistants are employed by veterinarians. Veterinarians may run a general practice or they may specialize in one area, such as small animal medicine, large animal medicine, or exotics. Veterinary hospitals provide routine preventative care, in addition to diagnosing and treating medical conditions.

While most veterinary assistants work in animal hospitals or clinics, they are employed by a wide array of institutions, including:

- Emergency clinics
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Animal control agencies
- Laboratories
- Universities
- Kennels & dog daycare centers
- Animal hospitals
- Zoos and aquariums
- Veterinary supply companies
- Shelters & humane societies
- Research institutions
- Wildlife centers
- Equine facilities
- Veterinary clinics

Career Outlook

The outlook for veterinary assistants is excellent. Employment in these areas is expected to grow 14 percent over the next decade, faster than the average for all occupations, producing 20,000 new jobs (source: U.S. Department of Labor). Salaries vary based on the specific field or employer.

*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook.



FLEXIBLE

WHEN CAN I GET STARTED?

Now! Getting started is easy - you can apply online in minutes. Once you're ready to schedule your courses, your academic advisor can help you plan the program that best fulfills your needs. Most students complete their certificate in 6-12 months.

We offer two certificates, Veterinary Assistant and Advanced Veterinary Assistant.

Veterinary Assistant

The three required courses for this certificate program are:

- ABI 410 Veterinary Assisting Fundamentals
- ABI 420 Veterinary Nursing Care & Clinical Procedures
- ABI 430 Veterinary Surgical Assistance & Technical Procedures

Advanced Veterinary Assistant

The Advanced Veterinary Assistant certificate requires the completion of the three required courses in the Veterinary Assistant program listed above, plus two additional classes for a total of five online courses. You may choose from one of four specializations within the Advanced Veterinary Assistant program. You will need to complete the two additional courses listed for that specialization.

Canine Specialization

- ABI 271 Canine Behavior & Enrichment
- ABI 312 Canine Health & Nutrition

Feline Specialization

- ABI 272 Feline Behavior & Enrichment
- ABI 313 Feline Health & Nutrition

Equine Specialization

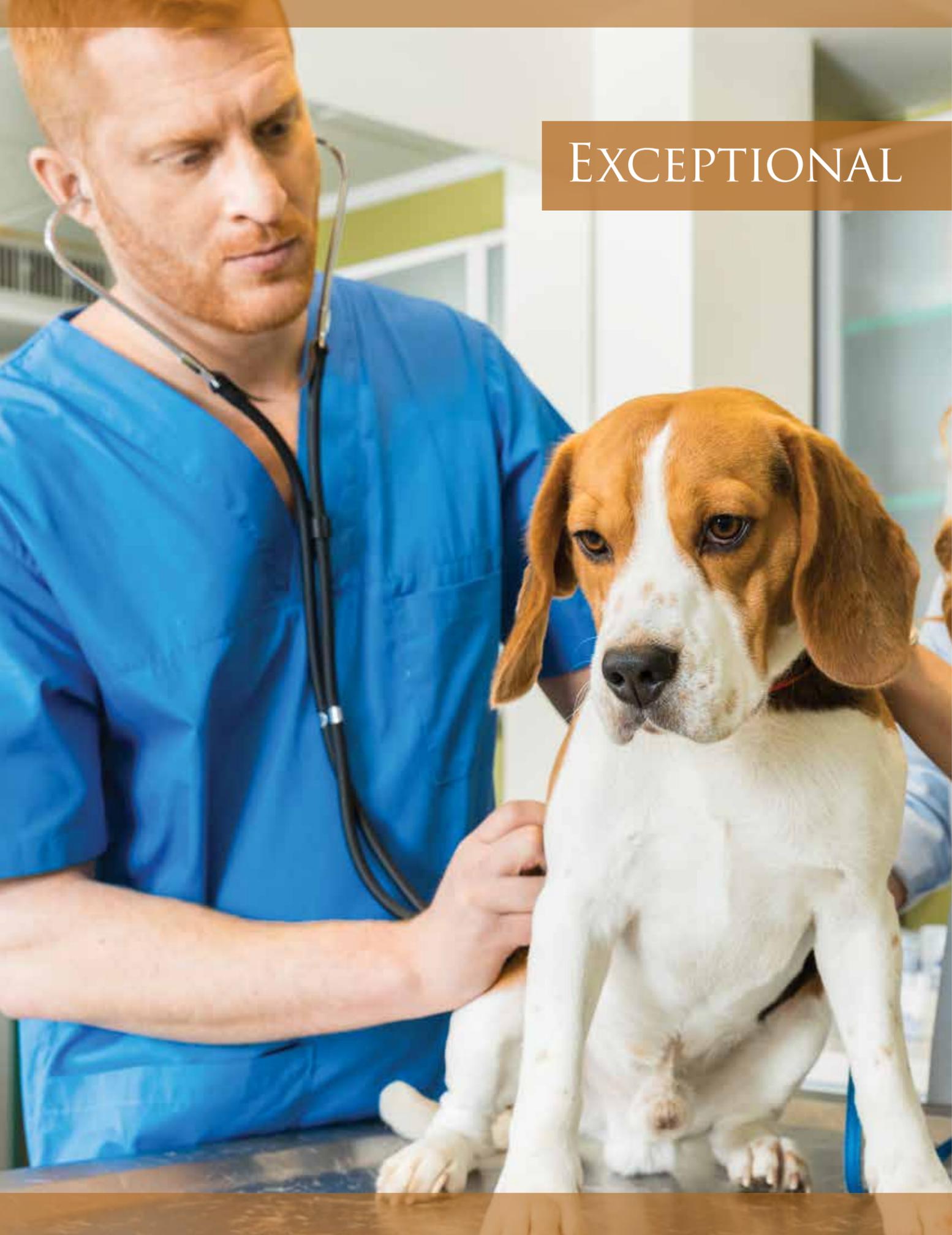
- ABI 237 Equine Behavior
- ABI 317 Equine Health & Nutrition

Wildlife Specialization

- ABI 214 Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation
- ABI 311 Animal Health & Nutrition

Field Requirement

We believe that academic training must be accompanied by real world experience to be truly effective. Students in either program will complete a field requirement consisting of 100 hours of hands-on experience as an employee, intern or volunteer at an approved institution of your choice. Please note that students in the Advanced Veterinary Assistant program do not need to complete the field requirement more than once. The field hours used for the Veterinary Assistant specialized certificate can also be used to satisfy the field requirement for the Advanced Veterinary Assistant certificate.



EXCEPTIONAL

WHY

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE?

Widespread Recognition & Acceptance

You can be confident about pursuing your education with the Animal Behavior Institute. Our quality programs enjoy widespread acceptance at other institutions. We are licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges* and accredited by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). As a result of this Accredited Provider status, the Animal Behavior Institute is able to offer IACET CEU credits. These credits are accepted by hundreds of professional associations, including those in the fields of therapy, counseling, and health care. Credit from our courses can also be applied to meet the continuing education requirements of many educational institutions, including public and private schools.

In addition, individual courses are accepted directly for CEU credit by the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Please see our website at www.animaledu.com for a complete listing of our educational partners.

Upon graduation from the Veterinary Assistant program, students may begin using the designation CVAS, Certified Veterinary Assistant Specialist. Students graduating from the Advanced Veterinary Assistant program will receive the designation CAVAP, Certified Veterinary Assistant Professional.

Personal Support

We'll provide you with close personal support from the day you begin until well after you've finished your program. When you enroll at the Animal Behavior Institute, your academic advisor will help you plan your individual program and answer any questions that arise along the way. Students have the freedom to choose how many classes to take each semester, when to take them and how to pay for them. Our flexible financing makes any program affordable. Qualified students can choose to finance a single course or their entire program – it's up to you.

As an alumnus, you'll have access to the same resources you've come to enjoy as a student. This includes access to job and internship listings, advising, and assistance with resumes and cover letters. We're with you before and after you graduate.

*The Animal Behavior Institute is licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges having met the requirements of Article 8 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes of North Carolina. Please note that the NC State Board of Community Colleges is not an accrediting agency.

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FACULTY

SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTINE HOUGHTON Professor of Veterinarian Health



Professor Houghton is the founder of the Veterinary Assistant program at the Animal Behavior Institute. She has been responsible for curriculum development and overseeing all aspects of the program. Her vast

knowledge and student-centered teaching have made her a favorite at our institution.

Christine brings a wealth of experience to our program. She is currently an Associate Professor at Bristol Community College, where she created a new program in Veterinary Health Care. As the Director, she oversees the academic and experiential components of the program. Professor Houghton previously spent seven years as the department head and an instructor in the Animal Care & Management Associates Degree program at Alamance Community College, where she specialized in husbandry and nutrition.

DR. GINA FISHER CALDWELL Professor of Canine Training & Behavior



Gina Fisher Caldwell serves as a professor at several universities, teaching courses in animal behavior and psychology. She has over 25 years of experience in the behavioral sciences

and has been working as a canine behaviorist since 2001, teaching classes in obedience, socialization, and therapy dog training. Dr. Caldwell is also a therapy dog evaluator and has been a registered therapy dog handler for nearly a decade. She conducted her doctoral dissertation on the factors that motivate canine handlers to volunteer in animal-assisted activities. She is a fear-free and relationship-centered certified trainer. Her training philosophy focuses on using LIMA methods to help students to connect, communicate, and ultimately develop a strong relationship with their dogs.

PROFESSIONAL

All courses at the Animal Behavior Institute share a common core, building a strong foundation and then applying that core to problem solving. The highlight of each week is a student-centered discussion; students work collectively to solve real world problems and case studies. Our approach helps build a strong rapport between each individual, their student colleagues, and the faculty. Small class sizes ensure that you'll know your instructors and receive the personal education you deserve.

An academic institution is only as strong as their faculty - and ours are outstanding. Our faculty are selected on the basis of their education, experience, and passion for teaching. We'd like to introduce you to two of the instructors in our Veterinary Assistant program. (For a complete list of instructors and their qualifications please visit us at www.animaledu.com.)



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