



**STO
PET**

GODINA
Veterinarskog fakulteta
Sveučilišta u Zagrebu

VETNEST Summer school of exotic and wild animal medicine

In this hands-on oriented course, participants will gain theoretical and practical knowledge about handling, manipulation, clinical procedures and treatment of exotic and wild birds, reptiles and small mammals.

The summer school will be held from **June 30th to July 4th 2025**, at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, with accommodation provided at the Stjepan Radić Student Dormitory

Brief schedule:

Sunday 29th June – student arrival
Monday 30th June – Small mammal medicine
Tuesday 1st July – Pet hedgehogs and Wild animal medicine
Wednesday 2nd July – Avian medicine
Thursday 3th July – Reptile medicine
Friday 4th July Zoo animal medicine
Saturday 5th July – student departure

Description:

The Summer School of Exotic and Wild Animal Medicine is a five-day (one-week) intensive course designed to provide participants with both theoretical and practical knowledge in the clinical care of exotic and wild animals. Over the course of the week, participants will deepen their understanding of clinical biology, animal handling and restraint, diagnostic procedures, and treatment methods for a wide range of species.

Schedule Overview:

Each day will be divided into a theoretical session in the morning and practical, hands-on learning in the afternoon. Participants will work in small groups of up to five people, ensuring personalized attention and a high-quality learning experience.

Day 1 – Small Mammals:

The first day will introduce participants to the basics of clinical biology, husbandry, and medicine of small mammals. In the afternoon, participants will engage in practical exercises, including clinical examination, handling and restraint, as well as diagnostic procedures and the administration of therapeutics.

Day 2 – Hedgehogs and Wild Animals:

On Day 2, the focus will shift to the medicine of pet hedgehogs and wild animals. In the morning, participants will learn about the clinical care and treatment of these animals, while the afternoon session will offer hands-on practice working with hedgehogs and wild animals.

Day 3 – Birds:

The third day will be dedicated to the systematics and medical care of birds. In the morning, participants will gain theoretical insights into bird medicine, followed by practical clinical work and laboratory procedures involving birds in the afternoon.



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Day 4 – Reptiles:

Day 4 will cover the clinical biology and medicine of various reptile species. The morning session will focus on theoretical knowledge, while the afternoon will provide participants with the opportunity to practice clinical examination, diagnostic procedures, medication administration, anesthesia, and endoscopy on reptiles.

Day 5 – Visit to Zagreb Zoo:

On the final day, participants will visit the Zagreb Zoo, where they will attend specialized lectures and engage in practical sessions conducted by experienced zoo veterinarians. This will provide valuable real-world experience in managing exotic species in a zoological setting.

Implementation and Milestones:

This summer school focuses on the core principles of exotic pet and wild animal medicine, with particular emphasis on reptiles, birds, and small mammals. The program is tailored for veterinary students seeking hands-on experience in exotic pet and wildlife medicine. Participants will engage with modern protocols for handling, restraint, anesthesia, and analgesia for reptiles, birds, and small mammals. They will also explore diagnostic endoscopy techniques applicable to clinical practice.

The program is designed to provide high-level practical training, focusing on clinical and laboratory techniques essential for working with exotic species.

Topics:

Basic care of exotic and wild animals

Handling, restraint, clinical examination of reptiles, birds and small mammals

Reptile anaesthesia/analgesia

Basic rehabilitation triage for wild animals

Clinical pharmacology of reptiles, birds and small mammals

Diagnostic endoscopy in reptile practice

Participating Units:

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University in Belgrade, Serbia

Zagreb Zoo, Croatia

ECTS credits: 3





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