

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION

Introduction:

Overview of Certification
Shifting Paradigms in Veterinary End of Life Care
Human Hospice vs. Animal Hospice
History of Animal Hospice

The Interdisciplinary Team in Hospice Care:

Interdisciplinary Team Approach
Supporting the Pet Owner: Non-medical Roles of the Animal Hospice Team
Practice Options for Hospice Care
Facilitating Communication with Referring Veterinarian, Specialist, and Interdisciplinary Team

Overview of Animal Hospice and Palliative Care:

The Caregiving Experience: Psychosocial Needs of Pet Owners
How to Organize a Consultation
Importance of Integrative Care to Support the Patient
Development of a Personalized Care Plan
Education of the Caregiver
Case Examples

Ethical Considerations and Decision Making:

Clinical Ethics, Professional Ethics, Societal Ethics

What to Expect with the Dying:

Hospice-supported Natural Death
Euthanasia
Post Mortem Changes

End of Life Communication:

SPIKES and Frame Communication
Introduction to Grief and Loss
Cremation Process, Burial Options
Standards of Aftercare Honoring and Memorializing
Maintaining Emotional Balance for the Hospice Team

Legal and Safety Concerns

Basic Steps in Establishing a Hospice and Palliative Care Business



MODULE 2: CURRENT HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE & COMMUNICATION

The Advanced Communication Skills Workshop has been developed by, and will be lead by, Bustad Award winner and educator, Dr. Jane Shaw, DVM, PhD of Colorado State University. Dr. Shaw has transitioned this workshop to a virtual workshop for the Class of 2021.

In addition to the Advanced Communication Skills Workshop, this module includes 20+ hours of the most current animal hospice and palliative care continuing education available. This year we are offering the option of either:

- Registration to our in-person 2021 conference, which will be held in Tampa, Florida on September 9th-12th, 2021

OR

- Full access to lecture recordings from our 2020 virtual ConferenceRE, which was held October 1-4th, 2020.



MODULE 3: ADVANCED HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

Advanced Medical Care:

- Prevalence of Conditions Seen in Hospice Practice
- Balancing Efficacy of Care
- Musculoskeletal conditions
- Cognitive Dysfunction
- Neurological Conditions
- Respiratory Diseases
- Overview of Cancer for End of Life Patients
- Gastrointestinal Conditions
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Heart Failure
- Pharmacology Interventions for Symptom Management
- Physical Medicine
- Complimentary and Integrative Medicine
- Interpreting Behavior to Guide End of Life Care and Decisions
- Assessing Animal Quality of Life
- Comfort Care During Active Dying
- Advanced Euthanasia Training (in collaboration with the Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy, CAETA)*
- Ethical Decision-making

Advanced Nursing Care:

- The Nursing Role in Hospice and Palliative Care (part 2)
- The Home Environment Assessment
- Pain Management
- The Nursing Role in Symptom Management and Client Relationship

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** Please note: Completion of the AHPC Certification program also provides a Certificate of Completion in the CAETA program. Students will receive access to all CAETA program benefits including their library of resources, option to continue training in equine, livestock, and exotic euthanasia, and use of the Euthanasia Team Training Manual.



MODULE 4: PAIN MANAGEMENT

This module embraces the multimodal treatment of pain management and provides an evidence-based approach to treatment options. It focuses on the neurobiology of pain mechanisms so as to understand the basis for mechanism-based treatments. Further, this module embraces the team approach to pain management, recognizing the valuable roles of the veterinarian, veterinary technician, and owner in managing each case. In particular, veterinary technicians play a major role in managing these patients of their lifetime, and interact with veterinarians and owners to be certain that patients are receiving optimal treatment and that owners are informed and educated about the treatment options for their pets and receive appropriate follow-up care. After completion of this module, students will understand the basic neurobiology of pain in companion animals, and be able to apply the information in the selection of treatment modalities.

Osteoarthritis & Pain

Multimodal Management of Canine Osteoarthritis

NSAIDs

Pain Management in the Cat

Neurobiology of Pain – Part 1 and 2

Opioids & Alpha-2 Agonists

Pain Assessment

Animal Health Technicians in Pain Management

Tricyclics & Anticonvulsants

Pain States

Adaptive & Maladaptive Pain

Visceral Pain



EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

MODULE 5: ADVANCED EUTHANASIA TECHNIQUES

Overview of Companion Animal Euthanasia
Caregiver and Pet Considerations
Physiology and Pharmacology
Pre-euthanasia Sedation and Anesthesia
Euthanasia Techniques
Challenging Situations
Case Review



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THE AHPC SW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF 9 ONLINE MODULES AND 1 ONSITE MODULE:

- Module 1- Social Work Certificate Overview
- Module 2- The Interdisciplinary Team and Social Worker Role
- Module 3- The AHPC Need
- Module 4- The Veterinarian Role in Hospice
- Module 5- The AHPC Client Needs
- Module 6- The Nursing Role in Hospice
- Module 7- End of Life and Euthanasia
- Module 8- Healing
- Module 9- The Business of AHPC Onsite
- Module 10- Conference and Euthanasia Lab (completed at the conference).
 - This onsite module is held in conjunction with the IAAHPC Annual Conference. One conference attendance is required during the program- giving you the choice to attend within two years of starting the program*. The module also includes completion of the required half-day Euthanasia Techniques Lab and potential volunteer participation in a full-day Communication Workshop. The AHPC Social Work Certificate is awarded at graduation during the annual conference.

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- Please note: Due to the move to a virtual conference in 2020, attendance will be required at the 2021 conference for new applicants.