

Course Objectives 2009
Introduction to Companion Avian Medicine VCSP635
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Our goal as your instructors is to have you meet all of the objectives below by the end of this course. This is a tall order in so short a course, but this serves as a framework for what we expect to teach you and what you should expect to learn.*

Foundational knowledge

- Learn the basic clinical signs, diagnostics, and treatment for common companion avian diseases
- Recognize common signs of illness in pet birds
- Know which common veterinary drugs are safe to use in which species

Application

- Understand the mechanics of handling and performing a physical exam on common companion bird species
- Understand the basics of collection, utility, and interpretation of routine diagnostic samples and radiographs
- Understand the basics of performing a wing and nail trim

Integration

- Understand clinically relevant anatomical and physiological differences between avian and mammalian classes
- Know how to initiate a diagnostic, therapeutic, and stabilization plan for common avian emergencies

Human dimension

- Be able to discuss with potential owners the pros and cons of having a companion bird
- Be able to obtain an avian medical history
- Be able to discuss clinical and zoonotic aspects of infection by *Chlamydophila psittaci* with owners

Caring

- Understand how to perform humane euthanasia of a companion bird and discuss this procedure with the owner
- Gain an appreciation of and excitement for unique challenges posed by providing medical care for companion birds
- Gain awareness of current issues regarding the welfare of caged birds

Learning how to learn

- Gain awareness of the numerous resources available for you regarding evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of pet birds
- Be able to quickly evaluate the husbandry of a companion bird and provide recommendations for improvement
- Know when to refer a case to an avian specialist

* The outline of this list is based on a taxonomy for learning illustrated in Fink LD. *Creating significant learning experiences*. 2003; San Francisco, CA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.