

**BEST PRACTICES OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT**  
**BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM IN ANIMAL CARE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF PADUA**



The present document is approved by the Degree Council of the Bachelor Degree program in Animal Care of the University of Padua and applies to the entire field of educational activities in Animal Care provided by permanent and temporary technical and teaching staff members. The members of the Bachelor Degree program in Animal Care community including students are bound to read and comply with these practices and, considering their own roles and responsibilities, to work to prevent behaviour that could constitute a breach of the rules contained herein.

**Preamble**

The Bachelor Degree in Animal Care provides and supports an educational environment that favours the sharing, the extension and critical examination of knowledge and values, and the respect for the founding ethical values of the university community. The University of Padova, in accordance with the principles of the Constitution of the Italian Republic and its tradition dating back to 1222 and summarized in the motto *Universa Universis Patavina Libertas*, affirms its pluralistic character and its independence from each ideological, religious, political or economic conditioning and discrimination. In its Code of Ethics, the University of Padua requires teachers, technical staff and students, in relation to the roles and responsibilities assumed, to respect, protect and courageously promote the core values of the institutions, among which:

- (a) the dignity of each person;
- (b) the refusal of any discrimination and the enhancement of individual merit, skills and competences;
- (c) freedom and fundamental rights, in particular the right to know;
- (d) responsibility and recognition-fulfilment of duties towards the community;
- (e) honesty, integrity and professionalism;
- (f) the freedom of science and research;
- (g) fairness, impartiality, transparency and loyal collaboration.

Applied to students and permanent teaching and technical staff members, as well as to temporary students (Erasmus students or similar, students enrolled in single courses) and temporary teaching and technical staff members (external experts or professors either as visiting professor, visiting scientist, supervisor, guest speaker, trainer or lecturer), the current practices of academic conduct, aims at protecting academic freedom, helping to preserve the highest standards of teaching and scholarship, advancing the mission of the University of Padova and of the Animal Care Degree Program as a higher learning context.

**teaching and technical staff is committed to:**

1. follow the main learning objective of the Bachelor, based on a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of animal welfare knowledge and recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them in their teaching activity. Their primary responsibility is to seek and to state the best practices regarding animal issues. To this extent, teaching staff should devote their energies to developing and improving students' competence, critical thinking and natural vocation;
2. exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge by practicing intellectual honesty, not to hamper or compromise students' freedom of inquiry;
3. interact with students and colleagues being inspired by the principles of integrity, trust, cooperation and mutual correctness, personal respect, equal opportunities and shared responsibilities;
4. prevent all forms of direct or indirect discrimination of students or colleagues based on gender, age, characteristics, personal status or conditions, territorial origin or background, personal beliefs or orientations;
5. promote high quality, responsible teaching and research activities through the pursuit of the highest internationally acknowledged standards, enhancing individual skills and experiences and the continuous enrichment of knowledge;
6. guarantee individual student counselling services, listening to their ideas and respecting their personal specificities, encouraging the defence of ethical values and moral integrity, a sense of responsibility and self-discipline;
7. carry out their teaching activities in compliance with the agreed content / syllabus and general organization and planning of the Bachelor and the University of Padova;
8. make moderate and contextualized use of material representing cruel practices on animals or of realities where animals are harmed on purpose, beyond legislation on the protection of animals in the specific context;
9. avoid to appeal to students' emotional and empathically driven responses in regards to cruelty to animals through strong statements or use of multimedia;
10. comply with the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and rules on the professional ethics approved by University of Padova (14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009).

**students are committed to:**

1. follow the main learning objective of the Bachelor, based on a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of animal welfare knowledge and practices regarding animal issues. Their primary

responsibility is to make animal health and welfare their first consideration when attending to animals providing the most appropriate and adequate care according to their knowledge and following the indications provided by the teaching and technical staff;

2. actively participate in teaching and learning activities, and work in a cooperative, correct and respectful manner and recognizing the role of effective guidance of the teaching and technical staff;
3. comply with the culture of respect for the Institution and for the institutional figures and bodies committed in the organization and coordination of their training by respecting the institutional role of each, conducting themselves in a responsible manner and avoiding unauthorized actions that disturb these processes;
4. interact with the technical and teaching staff and colleagues being inspired by the principles of integrity, trust, cooperation and mutual correctness, personal respect, equal opportunities and shared responsibilities;
5. prevent all forms of direct or indirect discrimination of students and technical and teaching staff based on gender, age, characteristics, personal status or conditions, territorial origin or background, personal beliefs or orientations;
6. promote academic honesty, integrity and professionalism ensuring fair evaluation of student learning and refusing acts of dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, lying or fraud, unauthorized collaboration on evaluated coursework and misuse of University properties or resources;
7. avoid to copy, post, share or distribute any materials provided by an instructor for any purpose unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in writing;
8. adopt civil and responsible behaviour, preserving the functionality and decorum of teaching and learning context and preventing disruption or obstruction of teaching including interfering with an instructor's ability to teach a class or with other students' participation in a class and conduct that interferes with a speaker or presenter from delivering their message or an audience from receiving the message;
9. avoid the use of mobile phone cameras, electronic capture devices, or unauthorized audio or video recording, in an educational context where the expectation of privacy exists, without the teacher's knowledge and express consent;
10. comply with all Bachelor and University rules, regulations, appointments and policies and the Code of Ethics approved by University of Padova (14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009).