

Module specification

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Module Code	ANM427
Module Title	Conservation Dog Handler Skills
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100522
Cost Code	GAAN

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
Standalone module aligned to FdSc Animal Behaviour Welfare and Conservation for QA and assessment purposes	Option

Pre-requisites

N/A

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	6 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	30 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	13/07/2022
With effect from date	13/07/2022

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Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

This module has been designed to provide students with knowledge of the skills needed to work as a detection dog handler in the field of wildlife conservation. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the practical applications of wildlife detection dogs in relation to different species and target odour. In addition, students will gain knowledge and understanding of skills relating to canine welfare and handling as well as the welfare of the target species. Whilst this course is aimed at working in Wildlife detection, these skills can be transferred to all detection topics.

Please Note; this course DOES NOT give direct qualification as a dog handler, but does provide the basic knowledge and skills required to work in this field and is an ideal starting point.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Identify key factors influencing the use of a conservation detection dog
2	Identify the welfare needs of working dogs and target species
3	Describe the impact of canine emotional systems on working dog performance
4	Demonstrate effective and ethical conservation dog handler skills

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1.

In-class test: Students will undertake a series of multiple choice and short answer questions relating to the use of conservation dogs, welfare of dogs and target species, and the effect of dog emotion on the performance of working dogs. (1.5 hrs duration)

Assessment 2.

Practical: Students will be provided with a practical dog handling task to undertake and will be required to demonstrate safe and effective practice with regard for animal welfare at all times. (20 Mins)

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1,2,3	In class test	30%
2	4	Practical	70%

Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The module is taught through a combination of lectures and practical activities. An active and inclusive approach is used to engage learners in the topics and will involve individual, group work and flipped learning experiences aligned to the university's Active Learning Framework (ALF). The approach offers students a flexible and adaptive learning experience that can accommodate a range of options that includes both synchronous and asynchronous where students can access their learning at a time and place to suit themselves. The Moodle VLE and other on-line materials and resources will be available to support learning.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Guidance, please provide indicative list

- ✓ How and why detection dogs are used in conservation work
- ✓ Husbandry and welfare requirements of working with detection dogs
- ✓ The range of equipment used when working with detection dogs
- ✓ Risk assessments for wildlife detection and conservation work
- ✓ Key skills and attributes required for handlers working with detection dogs.
- ✓ Dog emotional systems
- ✓ Motivation, frustration and choosing appropriate reinforcers for working dogs
- ✓ Search methods and techniques
- ✓ Ethical training
- ✓ Welfare needs of the target species
- ✓ Lead work, area coverage and probabilities of detection (POD)
- ✓ Reasons for false negatives and false positives in detection work

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Osterkamp, T. (2020), *Detector dogs and scent movement: How weather, terrain, and vegetation influence search strategies*. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Other indicative reading

Serpell, J. (ed.) (2017), *The Domestic Dog: Its Evolution, Behaviour, and Interactions with People*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication