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Drug and Disease Research Paper [Veterinary Technology]

Tara R. Scales

CUNY La Guardia Community College

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Veterinary Technology – Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology (SCV 262) Drug and Disease Assignment

Research Paper and Oral Client Communication Exercise

Prepared by: Tara Scales DVM

Assignment Description

This Drug and Disease assignment has been prepared for the capstone course Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology (SCV 262). Students take the course in the last semester of the 2-year AAS degree in Veterinary Technology at LaGuardia Community College. Students completing this assignment are second year (junior), clinical phase students. In this course, students are introduced to concepts in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, providing a basis for an applied, systems-based introduction to veterinary drugs. The course also introduces concepts in pharmacy management and toxicology. As a capstone course, this course assignment provides a basis for students to apply veterinary medical knowledge and practice communicating this application in both written and oral formats. The assignment typically takes students several weeks to complete and is worth 20% of the final grade.

The Drug and Disease assignment asks students to choose a veterinary drug (from an instructor-created list) and connect this drug with an associated veterinary disease that can be treated with it. Students are encouraged to use research, experience from prior veterinary technology coursework (Introduction to Veterinary Technology, Veterinary Pathophysiology, Veterinary Nursing, Veterinary Laboratory Techniques and Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology) along with clinical experience to support this investigation.

Students are first asked to demonstrate their ability to make logical (medically-sound), technician-level connections and conclusions about the drug and disease by writing a research paper. They then are asked to participate in a mock-client discharge/interview about the drug and disease that they have researched.

Research Paper

In the written portion of the assignment, students are prompted to consider the clinical signs, methods of diagnosis and mechanism(s) of the disease alongside the associated drug's indications, uses, side effects and mechanism(s) of action. Students are prompted to frame this investigation within the context of the role of the veterinary technician. Specifically, students are asked to examine how this drug and disease assignment is helpful in shaping their own understanding of the scope of practice of the veterinary technician in preparation for entry into clinical practice (i.e., in patient care, in client communication). After completion, this written portion of the assignment is

uploaded in ePortfolio and evaluated as an integrative learning and written ability submission.

Oral Client Communication Exercise

After completing the research paper, students participate in a video-recorded interview that asks them to explain the facets of the drug and disease “case” to a mock client. Clients are selected by the instructor and are unknown to students, increasing the stakes of the interview. This portion of the assignment helps to uncover, for students, the process of translating complex medical information orally for the client. It also affirms their role as technicians as they act in the bridging role between the client and veterinarian. After completion, this video is also uploaded to ePortfolio. Students are asked to reflect on their performance in a text entry field below the video before grading.

In conclusion, the goal of the assignment is to develop in veterinary technician students the ability to connect, analyze, and form conclusions about course content across the veterinary technology curriculum in order to foster a holistic understanding of a complete veterinary case. The exercise will help students develop written and oral abilities to communicate about complex medical cases. It will also support the development and definition of their professional identity and the scope of veterinary technology practice.

The assignment was originally an Inquiry and Problem Solving (IPS) assignment showcased using the written and oral abilities. It was charretted and submitted to the assignment showcase in 2017. It is now being deposited as an integrative assignment in both the written and oral ability areas. In summary, the areas that have been strengthened since the last submission are as follows.

- Change of the assignment competency from IPS to Integrative.
- Addition of the unknown client in the mock client interview.
- Addition of a reflection on the mock client interview in ePortfolio
- Framing of the written assignment within the context of the scope of practice of the veterinary technician and preparation for veterinary practice.

Drug and Disease Writing Assignment and Oral Client Communication Interview

Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology (SCV 262)

Veterinary Technology Program, LaGuardia Community College

Purpose of the Assignment

An important skill to develop as a veterinary technician transitioning from College to practice is the ability to create connections in coursework and clinical experiences in order to formulate a holistic understanding of a complete veterinary case. The investigation and articulation of these connections in written and oral formats also lead to the development of clinical skills (applications) including the translation of complex medical cases for clients and improved veterinary nursing care for patients.

Assignment Description

a) Research Paper

- Choose **one** of the two drugs you selected from the C106 topic list.
- Research and use previous information gained from SCV 101, SCV 247, SCV 247, SCV 213 and SCV 262 along with any clinical experience to investigate a disease or condition that is treated with this drug in veterinary medicine. Explore the connections between the chosen drug, (and related drugs, if applicable) and the disease.
 - a. Consider the drug's use, mechanism(s) of action, and related drugs if indicated, in the treatment of the disease/condition.
 - b. Consider the disease's presentation, etiopathogenesis, mechanism(s) and related methods of diagnosis where applicable in the investigation of its intersection with the drug.
- Place this investigation within a thesis that discusses the scope of practice of the veterinary technician. How is this drug and disease analysis helpful in the preparation for and use in clinical practice?

b) Oral Communication Client Interview

After preparing, the research paper students will be required to interact with a client in a scheduled interview and convey information from their paper, in real time, in order to practice communicating a complex case to a client. Clients will be unknown to the student and will be pre-arranged. The client will be given questions related to their pet that has the disease/condition you have researched and has received the drug you have selected.

Students should review their papers carefully before their client interview so that they can answer questions related to their topic. **The student will not be able to bring resource material into the interview.** It is recommended that students consider possible questions that a client might ask in order to pre-prepare some answers to help navigate through the session. The mock-client oral communication interview will be video-recorded during the studio hour time. It will need to be posted, by the student, in the assignment area for SCV 262 with the help of your studio hour STM. A text written reflection on the performance should also be made in the ePortfolio reflection box below the video once it has been posted.

Research Paper Style Guide

The assignment should be written in essay format with a developed introduction, thesis, body and conclusion. It should be written at a technical level that a licensed veterinary technician can navigate. The paper should be 1500-2000 words and follow the *References* guidelines for “Feature Articles” outlined in the **Today’s Veterinary Nurse (TVN) Author’s Guidelines** document (link below).

Resources

https://todaysveterinarynurse.com/download/2018_TVN_Author_Guidelines.pdf

Evaluation Criteria (Rubrics will be Provided)

Drug and Disease Writing Assignment 15%

Oral Communication Assignment 5%