

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION (SACS )**

**VEM 5370** Reptile Medicine and Surgery - 1 credit. This one credit course is presented two hours daily for two weeks. It is a pass/no pass course and Made's Reptile Medicine and Surgery is the required text for the course. Lectures cover basic biology and husbandry of reptile pets. Lecture topics also include nutrition and nutritional diseases, antimicrobials, anesthesia and surgery, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and techniques, fungal and parasite diseases, and viral and bacterial diseases. Common clinical conditions of reptile patients such as thermal burns, infectious stomatitis, and reproductive disorders are also covered. The course includes two wet laboratories. In the first one, restraint and sample collection in snakes, turtles, and lizards is covered using teaching animals. In this laboratory non-invasive procedures such as blood collection and tracheal washes are performed. The second laboratory covers anesthesia and surgical anatomy of reptiles. Anesthesia demonstrations provide first hand experience with induction, maintenance, and monitoring of reptile patients. Isoflurane is used following direct intubation in snakes, propofol is used for induction of iguanas, and medetomidine with a low dose of ketamine is used in turtles to produce profound sedation which is reversed with atipamezole. In the surgical anatomy portion of the laboratory, the anatomy related to various surgical procedures is reviewed using cadaver specimens of snakes, turtles, lizards, and alligators. The course culminates with a final examination the last day of the course. Course Coordinator - Dr. E. Jacobson; Grading System - Pass/Fail.