

Basic Entry Level Courses

- These courses are designed to teach the basic skills, uses, and applications of diagnostic endoscopy and sampling techniques in exotic species.
- They are appropriate for complete beginners, or those with some experience who are looking to improve their skill and comfort level.
- Topics on equipment choice, handling and care, as well as the basic clinical procedures, and biopsy are included. The 2.7mm telescope system, adapted for exotic species, is used as standard.
- Animals are selected from lab animal suppliers, captive breeders, or commercial farming companies. All sources and procedures have passed critical evaluation by our Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.
- At the end of this course participants will feel comfortable performing diagnostic visualization and various biopsy procedures in birds, reptiles, and small mammals.

Intermediate Level Courses

- Intermediate courses are designed to build on the participant's basic understanding and competence with the rigid endoscope.
- A working knowledge of the 2.7mm system and previous endoscopy experience is required, and previous attendance in a basic endoscopy course is strongly recommended.
- Intermediate courses include more complex techniques in common species, such as intraclavicular approach in birds, or saline-infusion gastrointestinal endoscopy. Alternatively, they may concentrate on basic procedures in less common species, such as turtles, fish, or amphibians.
- These courses introduce new items of endoscopy equipment, such as the 1.9mm telescope system, the 1mm semi-rigid needlescope, the 2.5mm flexible fiberscope, the radiosurgery polypectomy snare, and laser surgery probes.



Advanced Level Courses

- These complex courses are designed for the exotic animal endoscopist who is comfortable and experienced with rigid endoscopy and already uses the system on a very regular basis.
- Detailed knowledge of the 2.7mm telescope system, including instrumentation, is assumed, and previous attendance in basic and intermediate courses is strongly recommended.
- Advanced level training concentrates on demanding procedures that include multiple-entry techniques, endoscopic laser or radiosurgery, minimally-invasive surgery (ovariectomy, salpingectomy, and orchidectomy), or endoscope-assisted procedures, such as cystotomy, enterotomy, or enterectomy.
- Dramatic growth in the advanced courses is anticipated as new and exciting developments occur in this continually evolving field.



“Great instructors...they knew their material really well and presented it in a practical and interesting manner. I particularly liked the case presentations and practice management lecture.”

Faculty and Instructors

Dr. Stephen J. Hernandez-Divers, BSc BVetMed CBiol MIBiol MRCVS
Diplomate RCVS Zoological Medicine
RCVS Recognized Specialist in Zoo & Wildlife Medicine (Reptiles)
Exotic Animal Symposia Coordinator and Instructor

Dr. Sonia M. Hernandez-Divers, DVM, DACZM
Instructor

Dr. Clarence Rawlings, DVM, PhD, DACVS
Small Animal Symposia Coordinator and Instructor



Species and endoscopy applications

Birds

- Birds are ideal candidates for endoscopy, because they have an extensive air sac system. They remain naturally insufflated, providing ample working space for endoscopic procedures.
- The domestic pigeon is used as the avian model for symposia laboratories, which will teach coelioscopy (laparoscopy), tracheoscopy, and gastrointestinal endoscopy including cloacoscopy.
- Advanced courses cover multiple-entry techniques for salpingectomy, orchidectomy, and endoscope-assisted enterotomy/enterectomy.

Fish

- Various fish species from goldfish to sharks can be subjected to coelioscopy, gastro-intestinal endoscopy, gill endoscopy, biopsy and sampling techniques, all of which are generally quick and easy to perform.

“All procedures were well explained in the lectures and there was plenty of time to practice them in the laboratories.”

Reptiles & Amphibians

- Most reptiles have a simple, uncompartimentalized coelomic cavity which makes them excellent candidates for endoscopy.
- Captive-bred or captive-farmed common iguanas are generally used in the labs, although snakes, turtles, and amphibians are offered in intermediate and advanced courses.
- Procedures taught include coelioscopy, tracheoscopy, pneumoscopy, and gastrointestinal endoscopy, including cloacoscopy.
- Endoscopic ovariectomy/orchidectomy, and endoscope-assisted enterotomy/enterectomy are taught in advanced courses.



Ferrets, Rabbits, and Rodents

- Endoscopic dental examinations in rabbits and rodents and endoscopic tracheal intubation are both very important aspects of small mammal endoscopy.
- In addition, these small mammals can be subjected to laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, otoscopy, tracheoscopy, gastrointestinal endoscopy, vaginoscopy, cystoscopy, biopsy and sampling techniques, endoscopic ovariohysterectomy, and endoscope-assisted enterotomy/enterectomy/cystotomy.
- Basic laboratories will teach detailed examination of the cheek teeth of rabbits and rodents, examination of the upper respiratory system, and use of endoscopy for intubation.
- Intermediate procedures include cystoscopy, while advanced procedures include single-entry thoracoscopy, and multiple-entry laparoscopic techniques including ovariosalpingectomy.

“An amazing course...extremely informative, practical...One of the best courses I have taken.”



“The take-home laminated sheet of endoscopy images was a nice touch...I will use this to remind myself, educate my staff, and market my endoscopy service to clients.”

Why rigid endoscopy?

- Diagnostic and surgical endoscopy has become an essential tool for veterinarians.
- Diagnostic endoscopy permits the routine visualization and biopsy of internal structures in birds, exotic mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.
- More recently, it has evolved into a system capable of delivering remote medical therapy, and performing minimally invasive surgery.
- The small, often delicate nature of most exotic species makes them ideally suited to endoscopy.
- Today, endoscopy is without doubt an essential tool for any veterinarian dealing with exotic species on a regular basis. It is virtually inconceivable to consider modern exotic animal practice without an endoscope.
- Basic endoscopy systems are similar in cost to radiology or ultrasound equipment.

What do the symposia offer?

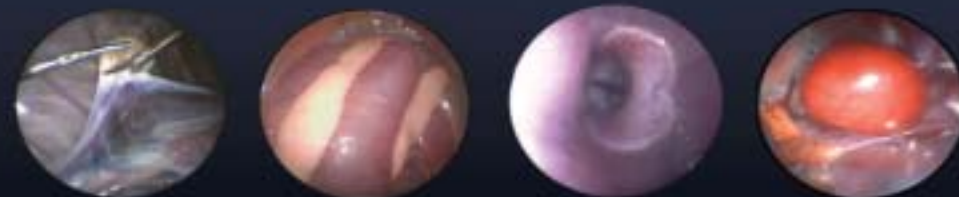
- Basic, intermediate, and advanced courses in minimally invasive diagnostic and surgical endoscopy of birds, reptiles, exotic mammals, fish, and amphibians at a dedicated international endoscopy training center.
- State of the art equipment sponsored by Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy



- Courses are taught by a team of boarded, experienced specialists from the Exotic Animal, Wildlife and Zoological Medicine section of the Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Department.
- Participants receive a full set of printed course notes, including PowerPoint lectures, as well as a continuing education certificate of attendance.
- Breakfasts, breaks, and lunches are provided, and nearby hotel accommodations can be easily arranged.
- Enrollment is limited to two participants per station, ensuring maximum hands-on laboratory time with personalized one-on-one attention from instructors.
- Technicians can accompany their veterinarian during the lectures and observe the laboratories.

General Course Information

- All courses are held at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine **in Athens** — only 1.5 hours from the Atlanta International Airport.
- Courses are generally **one or two days in duration**, and run from 8am to 5pm.
- Participants are instructed with **PowerPoint lectures**, including video endoscopy examples, before entering the laboratories to practice their skills using anesthetized, non-recovery animals.
- Information on equipment choice, handling, cleaning, sterilization, storage, endoscopy practice management, fee structures, and endoscopy marketing are **also covered in the lectures**.
- In general, **one day courses** consist of 3 – 4 hours of lectures and 3 – 4 hours of hands-on laboratory time, averaging 7.5 continuing education hours.
- **Two day courses** typically consist of 6 hours of lectures and 9 hours of hands-on laboratory time, averaging 15 continuing education hours.
- **Each course** starts with a course overview, and roundtable discussions complete each day.
- **Early registration** is strongly recommended, because only 12 places are generally available for each course. Paid registration guarantees a place in the course.
- Reduced registration fees are available for veterinarians wishing to **only attend the lectures**.
- All laboratory **procedures are approved** by the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.
- In general, two participants share a station that is **fully equipped** with the standard 2.7mm system adapted for use in exotic species.
- This **system includes** a 2.7mm telescope, protection and operating sheaths, biopsy forceps, retrieval forceps, remote injection needle, single action scissors, xenon light source, endovideo camera, monitor, and CO₂ insufflator.
- **Advanced items of equipment** (e.g. radiosurgery, diode and CO₂ lasers) are restricted to the intermediate and advanced courses.



"Excellent PowerPoint lectures...great photographs, diagrams and videos...a very complete course with very complete notes"

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Please Note

For information about dog and cat endoscopy courses, contact Dr. Clarence Rawlings, email rawlings@vet.uga.edu or 706/542.6317.

More information about all UGA continuing education courses is available on our Web site: <http://go-live.vet.uga.edu>.

Questions? Contact Continuing Education, College of Veterinary Medicine, email skilgo@vet.uga.edu or call 706/542.1451.

Special Offer

Karl Storz Veterinary Endoscopy will discount the full course registration fee from the price of an endoscope and video camera purchased at a course. Karl Storz collaborates with the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine to present Veterinary Endoscopy Training Symposia, providing critical instrumentation and technical support for the laboratories.

Exotic Animal Endoscopy

Veterinary Endoscopy Training Symposia

Using rigid endoscopy to diagnose and treat exotic species



Birds, reptiles, exotic mammals, fish, and amphibians

Diagnostic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Surgery



The University of Georgia
College of Veterinary Medicine