



زانكۆی سه‌لاحه‌دین - هه‌ولێر  
Salahaddin University-Erbil

## Animal Behavior and Welfare Syllabus



**Course Name: Animal Behavior and Welfare**  
**Number: AgAr4005,**  
**Semester: Second Semester**  
**Stage: Second Stage,**  
**Department: Animal Resources Dept.**  
**Lecturers' names:**

**Dr. Sheren Dhahir Mohammad**  
Lecturer

**Mrs. Rand Rostam**  
Assist Lecturer

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Animal behavior and welfare are major areas of public concern as production systems change and the ethics of food production become more important. It is also important when we consider how we interact with other animals, such as pets and wildlife.

Animal welfare is about the mental and physical state of an animal as it experiences and engages with the environment. This includes both positive and negative experiences, with animals having a good life when the balance of positive experiences is greater than negative.

A major challenge is to develop a better understanding of behavioral expressions of positive welfare (such as comfort, relaxation, and pleasure) and adverse experiences (e.g. pain, fear, stress, hunger and aggression) in managed animals. This includes the genetic and epigenetic control pathways and neural mechanisms that underlie behavioral traits, the long-term impacts of early life environment and the adaptations that animals have that allow them to cope with environmental challenges.

The objective of measuring animal behavior is to assess and enhance animal welfare, including through the introduction of 'positive' behaviors such as play and non-aggressive social interactions.

**Animal Behavior and Welfare (AgAr4005)** is part of the undergraduate curriculum in the Animal Resources Department and is requested for all grade two students.

## Practical Syllabus of Animal behavior and Welfare

Week	Contents	Hours
1.	<b>Definition of Animal Behavior:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factors governing behavior responses</li> <li>Types of behaviors</li> </ul>	2h
2.	<b>Social Behavior:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual recognition</li> <li>Communication</li> <li>Pecking and the peck order</li> </ul>	2h
3.	<b>Maintenance Behavior:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeding chicks and Feed intake</li> <li>Drinking</li> <li>Comfort Behavior</li> </ul>	2h
4	<b>Non-adaptive or displacement Behavior:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pecking and Cannibalism</li> <li>Fear in poultry</li> </ul>	2h
5	<b>Welfare Definitions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance of welfare on poultry health, performance and product quality.</li> </ul>	2h
6	<b>Welfare issues at:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breeder flock</li> <li>Hatchery</li> <li>Broiler farm</li> <li>Laying hens house</li> </ul>	2h
7.	<b>First Hourly Exam</b>	2h
8.	<b>Cattle behaviors:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeding behavior</li> <li>Factors affecting on feeding behavior</li> <li>Drinking behavior</li> </ul>	2h
9.	<b>Rumination behavior</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest and sleep behavior</li> <li>Locomotion behavior and types.</li> </ul>	2h
10.	<b>Social behaviors in cattle:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Likeness between animal</li> <li>Individual space</li> <li>Hierarchy behaviors (Dominance and Subordination)</li> </ul>	2h
11.	<b>Reproductive and Sexual Behavior</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oestrus behavior</li> <li>Several methods of estrus detection</li> </ul>	2h
12.	<b>Sheep behavior</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flocking behavior</li> <li>Sheep social behavior</li> <li>Sheep Sense</li> </ul>	2h

<b>13</b>	<b>Goat's behaviors</b>	<b>2h</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Visiting an integrated project in Kurdistan Region (Erbil governorate) to display the lectures practically.</b>	<b>2h</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Second Hourly Exam</b>	<b>2h</b>