

ETHOLOGY

Prof. Sarah Marshall Pescini – University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna
Course outline

16 hours total distributed in four sessions, including some interactive question time.
All lectures are accompanied by 1 essential reading paper, and up to 3 suggested papers.
The lecturer will make all the papers available online before the start of the course.

Lecture 1

The scientific method and the Study of Animal Behaviour. Field and Lab methods: strengths and weaknesses of each. What do you do when you study behavior in practice? A case study from the real world.

Lecture 2

The study of animal behavior in relation to the phenomena of domestication-> theories in relation to changes to behavior and hormones. Why wolves and dogs may be a good model, and some background on the wolf-dog domestication event.

Lecture 3

The socio-ecology of wolves and dogs-> knowing your species (in the wild) to formulate hypotheses. The case of 'pet' dogs vs. 'free-ranging dogs'.

Lecture 4

The Wolf Science Centre (WSC) and why it exists. Captive/Lab studies on wolf-dog difference in conspecific interaction: cooperation, tolerance, conflict management and prosociality.