

Aromatherapy and Zoopharmacognosy

CPD Course

Duration: 3 hours

Delivery: Online

Language: [Please confirm]

About the Course

This 3-hour CPD course provides an introduction to the principles of aromatherapy and applied zoopharmacognosy for domestic animals, with a particular focus on **canine and feline care**.

Designed for professional aromatherapists, veterinary assistants and pet care professionals, the course explores the safe and considered use of botanical extracts, including essential oils and hydrosols, in supporting the emotional and behavioural wellbeing of animals.

Participants will develop an understanding of species-specific considerations, essential oil safety, appropriate dilution, animal behaviour and the principles of allowing animals to guide their own scent selection.

What You Will Learn

By the end of the course, participants will have explored:

- The **anatomical and physiological differences** between canine and feline olfactory systems.
- The role of the **vomer nasal organ** and the behavioural significance of the **Flehmen response**.
- Species-specific **toxicological risks** and the importance of understanding metabolic differences between dogs and cats.
- Essential oils that are **contraindicated or prohibited** for use with animals.
- How to calculate appropriate **dilution ratios** according to species, weight and age.
- The selection and use of suitable **botanical carrier oils and macerates**.
- How to assess the **quality and purity of essential oils**, including understanding chemotypes and botanical nomenclature.
- How to distinguish appropriate therapeutic extracts from **synthetic fragrances**.
- The principles of **Applied Zoopharmacognosy**, including observing animal behaviour and allowing animals to participate in scent selection.
- The safe use of **hydrosols**, particularly when working with cats and animals with dermo-sensitive skin.
- How aromatherapy may be incorporated into support protocols for common **emotional and behavioural challenges**.

Practical Applications

The course considers the potential application of aromatherapy and zoopharmacognosy in situations including:

- Acoustic phobias, such as fireworks and thunderstorms
- Separation-related stress
- Relocation and environmental changes
- Supporting rescued animals during rehabilitation
- Other common emotional and behavioural challenges in domestic animals

Participants will explore how to develop **individualised aromatherapy approaches**, taking into account the animal's species, age, weight, circumstances and behavioural responses.

Safety and Responsible Practice

Animal safety is a central focus of this course.

Participants will explore the importance of **species-appropriate, low-dose applications** and the specific considerations required when working with dogs and cats.

The course covers dilution ranges of:

- **Felines:** 0.25%–1%, with hydrosols emphasised as an appropriate low-concentration option.
- **Canines:** 0.5%–2% maximum, depending on the animal's weight and individual assessment.

The course emphasises the use of **appropriately selected, chemotyped essential oils** diluted in pure botanical carrier oils.

Neat topical application and internal ingestion of essential oils are strictly prohibited within the approach taught on this course.

Applied Zoopharmacognosy

A key component of the course is understanding the principles of **self-selection**.

Participants will explore how to observe an animal's subtle body language and behavioural responses to scents, allowing the animal to communicate its preferences rather than imposing a particular essential oil or treatment.

The emphasis is on **non-invasive application and respecting species-specific behaviour and autonomy**.

Assessment

Participants are required to complete a **10-question written questionnaire** consisting of short-answer questions relating to the course content.

They are also required to submit a **reflective mini case study** documenting an applied scent-selection session (zoopharmacognosy test) with a domestic canine or feline.

The assessment is designed to demonstrate understanding of the course principles and their considered application in practice.

Who Is This Course For?

This CPD course is particularly relevant to:

- Professional aromatherapists
- Veterinary assistants
- Pet care professionals
- Practitioners working with animals
- Individuals with an existing interest or qualification in aromatherapy who wish to develop their knowledge of animal applications

Course Format

The course combines theoretical learning with practical application and assessment, providing participants with an introduction to the principles of safe aromatherapy and applied zoopharmacognosy for domestic animals.

Course duration: 3 hours

CPD Learning Areas

This course supports continued professional development in areas including:

- Animal aromatherapy
- Essential oil safety and toxicology
- Canine and feline physiology
- Olfactory systems and animal behaviour
- Essential oil dilution and formulation
- Hydrosols and botanical preparations
- Applied zoopharmacognosy
- Animal self-selection
- Safe and responsible practice
- Emotional and behavioural wellbeing in domestic animals