

AAVMC Competency-Based Veterinary Education (CBVE)

Spectrum of Care Sub-Competencies and Learning Outcomes
Addressed in this Open Door Course

(AAVMC, 2025)

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) describes clinical competencies that graduating veterinary students should be able to perform on day one of practice and thus are expected to be taught in the professional veterinary curriculum. The AAVMC recently added clinical competencies for practicing **spectrum of care**, which reinforces the importance that our profession now places on veterinary educators to teach these concepts and skills.

The content of this course aligns with the AAVMC's Competency-Based Veterinary Education (CBVE) learning outcomes for **spectrum of care** in the professional veterinary curriculum. (AAVMC, 2025)

SOC Sub-competency 1.3.5 Integrates information about the patient with client circumstances to identify a range of appropriate care options and to adjust the care plan.

- **Knowledge LO 1.** Lists the client-specific factors (e.g., expectations, goals, resources, abilities, beliefs) that may impact the client's ability or desire to pursue care options for their animal.
- **Skill LO 1.** Elicits information from the client about factors that may affect their ability or motivation to pursue care for their animal.
- **Skill LO 2.** Explains the importance of a follow-up plan to the client.
- **Skill LO 3.** Uses follow-up plan to determine treatment response and client perspectives and adapts as appropriate.

- **Attribute / Behavior LO 1.** Demonstrates empathy and respect during discussions relating to client circumstances.
- **Attribute / Behavior LO 2.** Demonstrates active listening to identify and clarify factors that may affect the client's ability or motivation to pursue care for their animal.

SOC Sub-competency 1.4.4 Offers a range of care options that are tailored to the unique circumstances of each patient and client.

- **Knowledge LO 1.** Explains why offering a range of care options is appropriate and integral to veterinary practice.
- **Knowledge LO 2.** Defines the terms “spectrum of care”, “contextualized care”, “standard of care”, and “gold standard care”.
- **Knowledge LO 3.** Gives examples of how offering a range of care options can impact a client's ability to attain care for their animal.
- **Knowledge LO 4.** Draws on scientific evidence to identify examples in which offering a range of care options improved patient outcomes and reduced euthanasia or surrender of animals.
- **Knowledge LO 5.** Identifies and weighs the practitioner and practice factors that impact the range of care options for a patient.
- **Skill LO 1.** Prioritizes and tailors care options to align with the client's circumstances.
- **Attribute / Behavior LO 1.** Demonstrates patience and flexibility to identify multiple care options that align with patient needs and client factors, despite uncertainty.

SOC Sub-competency 1.4.5 Facilitates client decision-making regarding care by presenting the costs, risks, benefits, and evidence-base of care options.

- **Knowledge LO 1.** Defines the characteristics of "shared decision-making".
- **Knowledge LO 2.** Explains the costs, benefits, limitations, uncertainties, and care-giving responsibilities associated with a range of care options, including not proceeding with further veterinary care.
- **Skill LO 1.** Invites a discussion of which care options may best align with a client's expectations and capabilities.
- **Skill LO 2.** Communicates aspects of care options that may have an uncertain outcome, steps that will be taken to reduce uncertainty, and that plans for care may change as new information becomes available.
- **Attribute / Behavior LO 1.** Demonstrates confidence and empathy when responding to clients' requests regarding alternative options.

- **Attribute / Behavior LO 2.** Demonstrates regard for client's autonomy with decision-making when choosing which care options align most closely with the client's capabilities.
- **Attribute / Behavior LO 3.** Demonstrates willingness to execute additional care options beyond the initial recommended care plan.

SOC Sub-competency 7.3.4 Demonstrates regard for previous care decisions made by colleagues and clients.

- **Knowledge LO 1.** Identifies strategies to discuss client and patient factors that may have influenced decision-making.
- **Knowledge LO 2.** Lists strategies for guiding client conversations around previous care decisions.
- **Skill LO 1.** Elicits whether a client's expectations were met during previous care and if not, why.
- **Skill LO 2.** Maintains appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication composure when reviewing previous care options.
- **Attribute / Behavior LO 1.** Demonstrates non-judgment regarding prior options given and decisions made.

SOC Sub-competency 7.3.5 Reflects on one's own professional identity in relation to providing a spectrum of care.

- **Knowledge LO 1.** Explains how a veterinarian's personal values, goals, and prior experiences can influence care decisions.
- **Skill LO 1.** Reflects on own values, goals, and prior experiences in relation to care decisions.

SOC Sub-competency 8.1.4 Provides a range of care options to a diverse clientele in a manner that fosters financial viability of the practice.

- **Knowledge LO 1.** Identifies components of the practice's profits and losses as they relate to providing care options.
- **Knowledge LO 2.** Explains how providing a range of care options can have a positive financial impact on the practice.