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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Animal lovers can brush up on pet subjects in new online course

Pet owners can learn to better understand their cats and dogs on a new course devised by world-leading experts.

The free online programme – called ‘The Truth about Cats and Dogs’ – has been designed by a team of animal welfare experts to teach participants about pet needs and behaviours.

The Massive Open-access Online Course, or MOOC, has been developed at the University of Edinburgh’s Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

The content of the course is based on the latest scientific findings and provides insights into pet senses and their understanding of the world.

It will be launched on Saturday (8 April) at the British Small Animal Veterinary Association Annual Congress in Birmingham – the largest meeting of its type for vets in the UK – and the course will be available to the public from 17 April.

Among the experts taking part is Heather Bacon, who was named 2016 CEVA Chris Laurence Vet of the Year for her commitment to animal health and welfare.

Dr Bacon said: “There is so much information available online about how best to look after your pet, which can be overwhelming. Our scientific understanding of cats and dogs has moved on leaps and bounds, but recent research has highlighted gaps in what pet owners know about their animals.

This course aims to develop a greater understanding of our cats and dogs by exploring how they perceive the world. Pet owners will gain a greater insight into their pets’ needs and how to provide for them.”

The MOOC is available via coursera at www.coursera.org/learn/cats-and-dogs

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