



College of Agriculture
Food and Natural Resources
University of Missouri-Columbia

Division of Animal Sciences

S108 Animal Sciences Center
920 East Campus Drive
Columbia, MO 65211-5300

Phone (573) 882-1381
Fax (573) 882-6827

August 3, 2018

Re: Cassandra Boness, M.A.
Teaching Evaluation

To whom it may concern,

I write to provide an assessment of Ms. Cassandra Boness teaching skills. I am an associate professor in the division of Animal Science at the University of Missouri. I teach and coordinated a sophomore level course titled Companion Animals. For this course, I invite faculty members from various Departments and people from the community to talk to the students about various aspects of the companion animal industry.

The topic of the use and misuse of emotional support animals is quite hot at the moment and often discussed in the news. I searched the literature and found that Ms. Cassandra Boness, a Ph.D. student at the University of Missouri, had written an article on this matter (*Examining Emotional Support Animals and Role Conflicts in Professional Psychology, 2016*). I immediately invited her to participate as a guest lecturer in my course in the Spring semester of 2018, and she graciously agreed.

She provided vary clear notes for the students to use as guide during the lecture. She was on time and very well prepared for this discussion. She presented the facts, answered questions in a nonjudgmental manner, and allowed plenty of time for discussion. She was approachable and the students felt comfortable asking her question. After her class, several of the students commented that they really enjoyed her lecture. In summary, I think that Casandra is a fine teacher who is able to maintain the student's interest and present the facts of a difficult subject in a non-confrontational manner.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Rocío Melissa Rivera, Ph.D.
Developmental Epigenetics Laboratory
Associate Professor
Division of Animal Sciences
F21C Animal Reproductive Biology Group

Guest Lecture Teaching Evaluation

Please insert an (X) in the box that most adequately corresponds to your observation.

	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Inferior	Not Applicable or Unable to Evaluate
Instructor						
The instructor’s enthusiasm when presenting course material	X					
The instructor’s efforts to ensure that students learned the material	X					
The instructor’s communication (e.g., choice of words, fluency, pace, being audible and clear)	X					
The instructor’s preparedness	X					
The instructor’s approachableness	X					
The instructor’s encouragement to students to ask questions	X					
The instructor’s receptiveness to new ideas and others’ viewpoints	X					
The instructor’s promotion of an atmosphere of mutual respect regarding diversity in student demographics and viewpoints, such as race, gender, or politics	X					
The instructor’s ability to foster questions/participation in class	X					
The instructor’s stimulation of class discussion						
The instructor’s engagement with students	X					
This instructor’s ability to respond appropriately to questions and comments	X					
Lecture						
The instructor’s ability to relay the lectures concepts in a clear and systematic manner	X					
The lecture’s organization	X					
The instructor’s use of visual aids, examples, illustrations, etc. to promote student learning						
The instructor’s time management	X					
The instructor’s creativity	X					
The instructor’s knowledge or grasp of the topic	X					

Additional comments or feedback:

Course = Animal Science 2140 – Companion Animals.

Course Coordinator – Dr. Rocio Melissa Rivera