

BASIC LAPAROSCOPY COURSE

FOR SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS

JUNE 6-7, 2026

INTRODUCTION

As demand for minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery in small animal practice continues to rise, it has become increasingly important for veterinarians to receive proper training in this field. Recent studies suggest that structured training programs and regular skill repetition are key factors for successful procedures with minimal complications.



This two-day, hands-on course provides veterinarians with foundational knowledge and practical experience in minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery. Designed for practitioners with little to no previous experience, the program includes lectures, videos, and extensive wet-lab training. Participants will begin with laparoscopic models and simulators and advance to performing live-animal laparoscopic procedures, focusing on abdominal exploration and ovarioectomy.

During the first day of the course, participants will learn about laparoscopic equipment and instrumentation through lectures and videos and will be introduced to various laparoscopic basic skills training tasks (such as peg transfer, pattern cutting, suturing, and the use of cautery-cutting sealing devices) and specific procedures (such as abdominal exploration, biopsy, and ovarioectomy), which will be practiced on laparoscopic training models and simulators.

On the second day, participants will have the opportunity to perform a practical laparoscopy surgery procedure involving laparoscopic abdominal exploration and ovarioectomy on live dogs. By the end of the course, participants will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to incorporate laparoscopy safely and effectively into their practice.



Veterinary Technician Training

Looking to enhance the laparoscopic skills of your veterinary technicians? Let them join the course and equip your technicians to handle the demands of Minimal Invasive Surgery (MIS) procedures. In addition to lectures and training on models (activities that are common to both DVMs and RVTs), technicians will learn about the preparation of MIS equipment and instrumentation, patient preparation for MIS procedures, and anesthesia considerations for patients undergoing MIS procedures that involve abdominal insufflation. By the end of the course, your technicians will be ready to assist efficiently in your clinic laparoscopic procedures.

CERTIFICATION

Continuing Education Credits: 17 CE Credit Hours: *This continuing education program was submitted to RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) a program by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) that sets uniform quality standards for veterinary continuing education. A total of 17 hours of continuing education credit was approved. At the end of the course, each clinician will receive a certificate of small animal laparoscopy course completion. Participants should be aware that some veterinary medical boards have limitations on the content and provider of CE credit. Please consult your state's practice act.*

INSTRUCTORS AND LECTURERS

And additional staff from our Pet Health Clinic (PHC)

COURSE LOCATION

**Western University of Health Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine
Pet Health Center**
611 E. Second Street, Pomona, CA 91766
<https://pethealthcenter.westernu.edu/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

DAY 1 – Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:00 am - 8:30 am	Check-in and Breakfast (provided)
8:30am – 10:00am	Introduction to Laparoscopy: Equipment, Instruments, Procedures, and Complications – Dr. Ohad Levi
10:00am – 10:30am	Coffee break
10:30am – 11:30pm	Anesthesia Principles under Insufflation – Dr. Lyon Lee
11:30pm – 12:30pm	Lunch (provided)
12:30pm – 2:15pm	Laparoscopic basic procedures training on models (laparoscopic tasks, vassal sealing devices, and ovariectomy on high-fidelity laparoscopic simulator)
2:15pm – 2:30pm	Coffee break
2:30pm – 5:00pm	Laparoscopic Basic Procedures Training on Models and Simulators – Dr. Ohad Levi

DAY 2 – Sunday, June 7, 2026

8:00am - 8:30am	Breakfast (provided)
8:30am – 5:00pm	Hands-On Surgery: Basic Laparoscopic Techniques and Ovariectomy on Live Dogs – Dr. Ohad Levi, Dr. Lyon Lee, Dr. Maria Fahie, Dr. David Clark, Ms. Annette Chavarria-Marron, Ms. Leslie Tortez, Ms. Prisma Martinez

REGISTRATION FEE

Fees:

Veterinarians - \$2250

Veterinary Technicians - \$500

(Only credit card payments are accepted through the registration site)

Registration link:

<https://app.registrationguru.net/#!/registration?eventId=757d274d-fb80-475a-a0bd-05f92d70d731>

Registration is limited to **eight veterinarians and two technicians**. Once the course registration is full, please contact us, and additional names will be placed on a waiting list. If any spots become available, we will contact you.

Cancellations and Refunds

Cancellations greater than 30 calendar days prior to the event's start day will result in a refund of 100% of registration costs. Cancellations less than 30 days before the event starts will result in no refund.

TRAVEL & LODGING

Travel

Local airports: Ontario International (ONT ~15 minutes) and Los Angeles International (LAX ~ 60-120 minutes, depending on traffic)

Lodging

We recommend the following lodging based on distance to the campus.

Pomona

- **Sheraton Fairplex Hotel** (~7 min. drive)
Address: 601 W McKinley Ave, Pomona, CA 91768
Phone: (909) 622-2220
Website: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/ontsi-sheraton-fairplex-hotel-and-conference-center/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

Chino Hills

- **Ayres Hotel** (~15 min. drive)
Address: 4785 Chino Hills Pkwy, Chino Hills, CA 91709
Phone: (909) 631-2922
Website: <https://www.ayreshotels.com/ayres-hotel-chino-hills>
- **Hampton Inn & Suites** (~12 min. drive)
Address: 3150 Chino Ave, Chino Hills, CA 91709
Phone: (909) 591-2474
Website: https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ciccahx-hampton-suites-chino-hills/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-HX-CICCAHX&y_source=1_MjA4MzY1MS03MTUtbG9jYXRpb24ud2Vic2I0ZQ%3D%3D

Claremont

- **Double Tree by Hilton** (~14 min. drive)
Address: 555 W Foothill Blvd, Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: (909) 626-2411
Website: https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ontcldt-doubletree-claremont/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-DT-ONTCLDT&y_source=1_MTM3MjY3NS03MTUtbG9jYXRpb24ud2Vic2I0ZQ%3D%3D
- **Hotel Casa 425 + Lounge** (~10 min. drive)
Address: 425 W 1st St, Claremont, CA 91711
Phone: (909) 624-2272
Website: <https://www.casa425.com/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Ohad Levi olevi@westernu.edu
Office: 909-469-8428

Thank You to Karl Storz – Endoscope for their continued support for the WesternU CVM Laparoscopy Training Program.

