
Overview

This standard covers the grooming of animals. It is designed to be applicable to working with all species of animals that need to be groomed. Separate specialist standards have been developed for the dog-grooming industry.

The standard includes correct animal handling, preparation of the environment for grooming, the correct grooming equipment and methods needed for the animal, health and safety and basic animal anatomy and physiology including the identification and reporting of any abnormalities.

This standard is suitable for anyone who works with animals.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out all work in accordance with instructions and workplace procedures
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice at all times
- P3 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and risk assessment requirements
- P4 maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security
- P5 check that the work area is safe, secure, clean and ready for use
- P6 select, prepare, use and maintain equipment in a safe and effective condition throughout
- P7 use the correct protective equipment and clothing in accordance with workplace policy and procedures
- P8 prepare the animal ready for **grooming** using the correct techniques and equipment
- P9 interact with the animal in a humane manner that minimises stress and allows observation to be carried out safely
- P10 promote the animal's welfare at all times and adapt your own, or others, behaviour if necessary to avoid creating undesirable behaviour
- P11 identify the behaviour of animals that may indicate welfare or other problems and take the appropriate action
- P12 recognise when behaviour of the animal may indicate that you should not continue with the activity
- P13 groom the animal using the appropriate methods for the animal, the type of coat and the purpose of grooming (e.g. showing, general coat maintenance, training, competing, health reasons)
- P14 use techniques and equipment in a manner that minimises discomfort for the animal
- P15 recognise when examination of the animal reveals a possible abnormal condition and take the appropriate action
- P16 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with workplace procedures
- P17 clean/sterilise and store the equipment used in accordance with workplace procedures
- P18 maintain records as appropriate

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the importance of completing the activity in accordance with instructions and workplace procedures
- K2 your responsibilities under relevant health and welfare, and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K4 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how these can be achieved
- K5 the types of equipment required and how to select, prepare, use and maintain these in a safe and effective condition
- K6 how to approach, handle and restrain animals in a manner that promotes their confidence and co-operation and maintains safety
- K7 how methods may vary according to the reasons for grooming
- K8 why the coat condition affects the method of preparing coats and the equipment that should be used
- K9 different types of cleansing products available, their purposes and the types of animal coats and conditions for which they are suitable
- K10 the importance of following manufacturers' instructions regarding the use of products, how to correctly interpret these instructions, and the possible consequences of not doing so
- K11 basic animal anatomy and physiology sufficient to be able to groom safely and effectively
- K12 correct methods of grooming the coat of animals in your care
- K13 the anatomical areas that require particular care, either due to sensitivity or because of the risk to yourself
- K14 how to carry out a basic health care check when grooming
- K15 signs and symptoms that may indicate skin problems and parasite infestations
- K16 how to observe and recognise animal behaviour as part of your interaction with the animal, and record as appropriate
- K17 how your actions, and the actions of others, may affect the behaviour and welfare of the animal
- K18 the effect of the animal's environment on its behaviour
- K19 the importance of recognising behaviour that indicates it would not be

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appropriate to continue with the activity

K20 how to handle, store and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and workplace requirements

K21 how to clean and sterilise equipment and the correct method of storage

K22 the records that need to be maintained

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Glossary

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):

It is illegal under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) for non-veterinary surgeons to practise veterinary surgery.

The Act defines Veterinary Surgery as:

- the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;
- the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
- the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and
- the performance of surgical operations on animals.

Current animal welfare legislation:

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Grooming could include:

- remove excess hair, knots and tangles
- clean the animal's coat and skin
- remove dirt and debris from between toes and pads

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