

# LANAnC73- SQA Unit Code HA8N 04

## Provide animal-sitting services in the owner's premises



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### Overview

This standard covers the provision of animal-sitting services in the home or property of the animal's owner.

You will be expected to work in accordance with relevant national legislation and local policies, relating to animals. Security of the owner's premises will be a key responsibility.

Users of the standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up-to-date information and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

This standard is for those providing animal-sitting services in the home or property of the animal's owner.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 maintain your own professional competence and ethics and work within the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated 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 business policies
- P4 ensure appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security are maintained
- P5 **agree arrangements** for the animal-sitting services with the owner
- P6 agree the **specific requirements** of the animal with the owner
- P7 ensure written consent to provide animal-sitting services is obtained from the owner
- P8 assess your **own limitations** to provide animal-sitting services
- P9 ensure you are familiar with all resources and equipment for the animal-sitting services
- P10 approach all interactions with the animal in a manner that reinforces desirable behavioural patterns and avoids creating undesirable behavioural patterns
- P11 handle the animal correctly throughout your stay in a way that does not compromise the animal's health and welfare
- P12 monitor the mental and physical condition of the animal during your stay
- P13 identify behaviours of animals which may indicate welfare or other problems and take appropriate action
- P14 recognise the signs of stress, fear, aggression, pain, conflict, avoidance, play, appeasement and relaxation in the animals that you are caring for
- P15 carry out all services as agreed with the owner and report any issues
- P16 report if the animal's behaviour indicates concerns regarding its suitability for animal sitting and agree how your concerns can be addressed
- P17 ensure appropriate **records** are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your professional responsibilities and the need to maintain professional competence
- K2 your legal and professional liability when providing animal-sitting services in the owner's premises and the importance of appropriate insurance cover
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K4 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- K5 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how this can be achieved
- K6 the importance of agreeing the arrangements for the animal sitting with the owner
- K7 the importance of agreeing specific requirements for the animal with the owner
- K8 why it is important to gain written consent from the owner for the services agreed
- K9 how to assess your own abilities and limitations to provide animal-sitting services in an owner's premises
- K10 how to assess the suitability of your premises' environment for the provision of pet care services
- K11 the range of resources and equipment available and how to use it correctly
- K12 how to ensure that the animal's welfare is maintained throughout and that your behaviour does not cause adverse reactions
- K13 how to transport animals safely and securely
- K14 the importance of clearing up and disposing of animal waste, legislation relating to this and methods of doing so
- K15 signs that indicate the mental condition and physical behaviour of the breed of animal and the importance of assessing animal behaviour and condition before and during your stay
- K16 how to recognise behavioural and emotional states of animals including fear, aggression, appeasement, anxiety, play and relaxation and the actions to take
- K17 the early signs of change in behaviour associated with ill health, and

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indicators of injury or pain, discomfort, disease or distress

- K18 the importance of referral to veterinary care when appropriate
- K19 correct ways of handling the animal concerned to ensure the safety of the animal, yourself and others
- K20 the potentially detrimental effects of the change of caregiver on the animal's health and welfare, how to recognise these and make recommendations for modification of the planned stays
- K21 appropriate records to be kept, the importance of confidentiality and the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998)

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#### Scope/range

#### **Animal-sitting arrangements to be agreed with the owner could include:**

- 1 animal/s to be cared for
- 2 time to be spent at the owner's property
- 3 contact with the owner
- 4 your own accommodation
- 5 permitted access to house and other property
- 6 provision of food
- 7 use of household equipment
- 8 security of the property (keys, alarms etc)
- 9 post and other deliveries
- 10 services (water, gas, electricity, oil)
- 11 emergency contacts
- 12 collection of waste and recycling
- 13 other services agreed with the owner

#### **Specific requirements of the animal could include:**

- 14 sleeping and bedding requirement
- 15 enrichment requirements
- 16 toileting requirements
- 17 exercise requirements
- 18 handling and restraint
- 19 equipment to be used, including handling and clothing
- 20 interaction with people
- 21 interaction with other animals
- 22 transportation requirements
- 23 dietary and feeding requirements
- 24 medication requirements
- 25 grooming requirements
- 26 safety and security of the animal
- 27 access to, and provision of, veterinary attention

#### **Own limitations to provide animal-sitting services could include:**

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- 28 own abilities and experience
- 29 type and security requirements of the owner's premises
- 30 number and type of animals
- 31 the care and husbandry requirement of the animal concerned

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#### Glossary

#### 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

#### Records:

- feedback sheet for owner
- own records

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