



## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Animal Welfare

**Unit code:** F3TX 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit provides knowledge and understanding necessary for working within the animal care and animal welfare sector. It enables candidates to understand the main concepts of animal welfare; the factors that affect such welfare and provides understanding of the current legislation associated with welfare issues in the UK.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Describe the characteristics which indicate poor animal welfare.
- 2 Explain current influences on animal welfare in the UK.
- 3 Explain how current animal welfare codes and legislation impact upon animal welfare in the UK.

**Credit points and level:** 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7\*)

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

**Recommended prior knowledge and skills:** While entry to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre, it is recommended that candidates have good communication skills, this could be evidenced by achievement of *Communication* at SCQF level 5, or equivalent.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 and *Information Technology* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

**Context for delivery:** If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

**Assessment:** Assessment could be by a research-based report, used to integrate assessment of all three Outcomes.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Animal Welfare

**Unit code:** F3TX 34

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

### **Outcome 1**

Describe the characteristics which indicate poor animal welfare

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ The ‘five freedoms’
- ◆ Animal welfare practices
- ◆ Stress
- ◆ Suffering
- ◆ Categories of animals

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain ‘the five freedoms’ and how, collectively, they are used to promote positive animal welfare practices
- ◆ describe three characteristics, which must include behavioural and physical characteristics, displayed by laboratory and either zoo or performing animals which indicate stress
- ◆ describe three characteristics, which must include behavioural and physical characteristics, shown by farm and companion animals which indicate that they are suffering

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Assessment could be by a research-based report in which candidates describe indications of the stress and suffering of animals under poor welfare conditions in a range of situations, and highlight the use of the five freedoms in promoting positive animal welfare practice.

The report could be used to integrate assessment of all three Outcomes.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Animal Welfare

### **Outcome 2**

Explain current influences on animal welfare in the UK

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Public Opinion
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Political
- ◆ Marketing

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain how public opinion can influence animal welfare. The explanation must include the influence of key stakeholders including animal owners, veterinarians, food chain related business, services and consumers, welfare and other animal welfare interest groups, countryside and other interest groups and government.
- ◆ explain how the media can influence animal welfare. The explanation must include at least two current examples of media influence in animal welfare practice.
- ◆ explain how the political process can influence animal welfare. The explanation must cover Westminster, the Scottish Government, political parties, (MPs, MEPs, MSPs).
- ◆ describe at least two marketing schemes used to promote positive animal welfare.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Assessment could be by a research-based report where candidates investigate a range of key stakeholders and explain how they influence animal welfare, via use of the media and public opinion to improve standards of animal welfare. The use of marketing schemes to promote positive animal welfare should also be included.

The report could be used to integrate assessment of all three Outcomes.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Animal Welfare

### **Outcome 3**

Explain how current animal welfare codes and legislation impact upon animal welfare in the UK.

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Codes of recommendation
- ◆ Improvement notices
- ◆ Current animal welfare legislation
- ◆ Government and Non-Government Organisations

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the implications of two current codes of recommendations for two animal categories from farm animals, companion animals, laboratory animals and either zoo or performing animals
- ◆ explain the current principal animal welfare legislation and its use in maintaining adequate animal welfare standards
- ◆ explain the implications of at least secondary or subsidiary legislation and its implications for animal welfare
- ◆ explain the work of at least two organisations, including at least one government and one non-government organisation, responsible for implementing animal welfare legislation and whose work includes the protection of animal welfare

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Assessment could be by a research based report in which candidates describe indications of the stress and suffering of animals under poor welfare conditions, in a range of situations. The report could also relate the five freedoms to welfare codes and recommendations, highlight current legislation, and identify and describe the work of welfare organisations set up to protect and prevent poor welfare and cruelty to animals.

The report could be used to integrate assessment of all three Outcomes.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F3TX 34  
**Unit title:** Animal Welfare  
**Superclass category:** SP  
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### History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title: Animal Welfare**

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

This Unit is intended for candidates who are studying towards an HNC/HND in Animal Care. The Unit will also be useful for animal care professionals and other candidates wishing to work within the animal welfare environment.

The Unit is specifically related to the welfare of animals housed in a range of situations in the UK and relates specifically to the legislations and controls set in place for the UK only. Additional information relating to each Outcome is given below.

#### **Outcome 1**

The lecture sessions for this Outcome could outline the types of situations in which animals can be housed. The Outcome should emphasise the five freedoms in order that candidates can see what should be provided for all animals regardless of their environment so that their welfare requirements are attended to. The five freedoms are:

- 1 Freedom from hunger and thirst.
- 2 Freedom from discomfort.
- 3 Freedom from pain injury or disease.
- 4 Freedom to express normal behaviour.
- 5 Freedom from fear and distress.

Lectures could concentrate on how to assess signs of poor animal welfare from both an environmental and husbandry perspective. Delivery of this Outcome could include both physical and behavioural signs of stress eg fear, pain, frustration and exhaustion of animals that might be housed in environments more likely to lead to stressful situations. Behavioural and physical signs of suffering should be highlighted so that candidates are familiar with how to determine the minimum standards expected.

It would be beneficial for this Outcome to be delivered along with Outcome 3 so that the welfare codes and recommendations for livestock can be investigated, to show how appropriate standards of animal welfare should be maintained within the accommodation covered in Outcome 1. It would also allow candidates to investigate the organisations associated with animal welfare and the implementation of legislation used to protect animals from poor practice and cruelty.

#### **Outcome 2**

There are many current influences on animal welfare. This Outcome could be delivered in a manner that allows for investigation and debate. Case studies may be used to highlight successful animal welfare campaigns to show candidates that public opinion can be a powerful tool in improving animal welfare. It is important, however, for candidates to realise that public opinion alone is not enough to make longstanding and far reaching changes. Candidates should be aware of the range of stakeholders

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Animal Welfare

that may constitute 'the public' so that they may see the wide ranging influence they are able to have. The use of the media to highlight welfare issues and of appropriate marketing strategies to change consumer approach to animal welfare is essential. Investigation into the political process, through lobbying, along with those involved at various levels of government are to be investigated so that candidates can appreciate what is involved to finally effect change in legislation. Such investigation will help candidates appreciate the many cultural influences on animal. An example of an appropriate case study that could be used are the changes to the keeping of hens for egg production with marketing strategies such as 'Freedom Foods' to promote positive animal welfare to consumers.

### Outcome 3

As previously stated it would be beneficial for this Outcome to be delivered in conjunction with Outcome 1. Lectures for this Outcome could concentrate on the use of Welfare Codes and recommendations that are made to the keepers of animals in order that they are fully aware of the standards expected with regard to accommodation, management and husbandry of the animals in their care. The Outcome should be used to familiarise candidates with the most up-to-date legislation associated with animal welfare. This will predominantly be the Animal Welfare Act, but at the time of writing secondary legislation and welfare codes associated with this piece of legislation are incomplete. These could be investigated as they become available. Delivery of this Outcome could also include investigation into improvement notices and the guidance for inspectors (as seen on DEFRA website: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)). Organisations that help to promote animal welfare and such as DEFRA; SERAD; RSPCA; SSPCA could also be investigated and their roles discussed as part of the delivery of this Outcome.

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award within the HNC/HND Animal Care framework. It may be suitable for integration in delivery or assessment with the HN Unit *Animals in Society*. Information from this Unit may also contribute to the project for *Animal Care: Graded Unit 2*.

It could also be delivered as a standalone Unit for candidates who are employed within the animal welfare sector or to any who would wish to promote good welfare practice within their organisation. As well as lectures, debates and discussion groups, internet investigation, and audio/visual presentation, the delivery of this Unit would be enhanced by visits to a range of animal facilities. This would provide a context for candidates and enhance their understanding of welfare practices and issues, benefiting any later discussion in class. Guest speakers from welfare organisations would enhance candidates' understanding and knowledge.

Assessment could be integrated via a holistic report. Candidates could be asked to describe signs of poor animal welfare resulting in stress and suffering of animals across a range of situations. This could include description of the five freedoms in relation to welfare codes and recommendations. The report could highlight current welfare legislation as well as identifying and describing the work of welfare organisations set up to protect animals and prevent poor welfare and cruelty. A holistic report **must** cover all Evidence Requirements from the three Outcomes.

Delivery of the Unit may be enhanced through site visits that provide candidates with the opportunity to see established practices and the various ways in which animals may be housed, allowing an appreciation of the differences between various types of environments.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Animal Welfare

### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* at SCQF level 6 and *Information Technology* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component Written Communication of the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6, particularly by use of the suggested holistic report as instrument of assessment. The general skills of the component are ‘read, understand and evaluate written communication’ for its reading element and ‘produce well-structured written communication’ for its written element.

Any preparation towards producing the report such as supplementary reading and research will facilitate development of the component’s reading element, as candidates will need to examine a variety of information, for example, when explaining the legal requirements of informed consent in the third Outcome. Similarly, the writing element of the component may be developed when dealing with these and other topics such as explaining risks to personnel and animals, and associated issues.

In both formative and summative assessment candidates should be encouraged to present all essential ideas/information and supporting detail in a logical and effective order; use a structure that takes account of purpose and audience and links major and minor points in ways which assist the clarity and impact of the writing; use conventions which are effective in achieving the purpose and adapted as necessary for the target audience and use spelling, punctuation and sentence structures which are consistently accurate.

Depending on the methods used to produce candidates’ reports, the delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the Core Skill of *Information Technology*, the general skill of which is to use ‘an IT system effectively and responsibly to process a range of information.’

Specific skills required at SCQF level 5 include carrying out processing and searches, using applications in depth (which could be required for research purposes), and integration of different types of data in a piece of work. Candidates may opt or require to use IT systems and specific applications not only in drafting and editing their work, but in the earliest stages of researching and beginning to compile their reports.

If candidates are presented with a brief for a research based investigation then the research, information gathering and presentation of findings may provide the opportunity to develop Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6. The general skills required by its three components are the abilities to:

- ◆ analyse a complex situation or issue
- ◆ plan, organise and complete a complex task
- ◆ review and evaluate a complex problem solving activity

There is scope for candidates to utilise these skills if tackling an investigation, dealing with complex issues. In order to develop *Problem Solving*, this would need to include a reflective element, to cover the third component, reviewing and evaluating (see Core Skills Framework at [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont.)**

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### **Open learning**

It may be possible this Unit through distance learning. However, centres would have to ensure appropriate support and assessment arrangements. Candidates may have to make their own arrangements for site visits.

### **Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Animal Welfare

This Unit will provide you with the knowledge and understanding necessary for working within the animal care and welfare sector. It will enable you to understand the main concepts of animal welfare; the factors that affect such welfare, as well as providing you with a basic understanding of the current legislation associated with welfare issues in the UK.

By the end of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Describe the characteristics which indicate poor animal welfare.
- 2 Explain current influences on animal welfare in the UK.
- 3 Explain how current animal welfare codes and legislation impact upon animal welfare in the UK.

The Unit will concentrate on species housed in the UK which fall into the following categories:

- ◆ farm animals
- ◆ laboratory animals
- ◆ companion animals
- ◆ performing animals or zoo animals

The first Outcome will familiarise you with the main influences on animal welfare. It will provide you with the knowledge necessary to gauge the difference between good and poor animal welfare in a range of situations. You will also learn about the five freedoms, used to establish a minimum standard of welfare within facilities where animals are housed.

The second Outcome will provide you with the knowledge and understanding necessary to explain the cultural influences associated with animal welfare. Through investigation you will see how the public, the media, politics and marketing can influence standards of animal care and welfare.

The third Outcome covers legislation, investigating the specific and most current pieces of legislation used to protect animals and maintain a national standard for welfare. You will learn about welfare codes and recommendations available to the public, in order that they comply with the minimum standards set down by animal welfare organisations. The organisations set up to maintain these standards, provide advice and protect animals from cruelty are also investigated.

Delivery of the Unit may include site visits that will help to provide you with the opportunity to see established practices. Such visits also provide experience of the various ways in which animals may be housed, allowing an appreciation of the differences in various types of environments.

You will have to complete any assignments within a set time frame and gather your information from a range of sources. You may be asked to present your findings in a way that shows a holistic response to the information gathered for the three Outcomes, and will need to provide clear referencing to source information included within your work.

## **General information for candidates (cont)**

### **Unit title:** Animal Welfare

Over the course of this Unit there are opportunities to develop Core Skills in the areas of *Communication* and *Information Technology*. Should your findings be presented as a written report there may be an opportunity to develop the written component of the *Communication* Core Skill at SCQF level 6. If you are presented with a brief for a research based investigation then the research, information gathering and presentation of findings may provide the opportunity to develop Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.