



## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

**Unit code:** F3V3 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit enables candidates to develop the knowledge, understanding and practical abilities required to competently handle, restrain and sex a range of companion animals. Candidates will also be able to explain first aid conditions and explain the appropriate action that should be taken, including the application of bandages.

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

- 1 Explain and demonstrate the handling, restraint and sexing of a range of companion animals.
- 2 Explain the emergency first aid needs and conditions of a range of companion animals.
- 3 Explain emergency first aid conditions and the appropriate action required for a range of companion animals.
- 4 Demonstrate the correct application and explain the management of bandages in a first aid context.

**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:** Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial if the candidate has had previous experience in handling companion small animals and has access to an animal care environment.

**Core Skills:** There may be opportunities to develop the written component of the Core Skill of *Communication*, and the critical thinking component of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*, at SCQF level 6 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:** Outcome 1 could be assessed using a practical observation assessment and a closed-book short answer paper consisting of structured questions in an invigilated environment. Outcome 2 and 3 could be assessed holistically using a closed-book extended response paper consisting of structured questions in an invigilated environment. Outcome 4 could be assessed using a practical observation assessment and oral questioning.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

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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

Explain and demonstrate the handling, restraint and sexing of a range of companion animals

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Risks
- ◆ Handling aids
- ◆ Restraining aids
- ◆ Handling techniques
- ◆ Restraining techniques
- ◆ Sexing

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain two risks to the handler and two risks to the animal associated with handling and restraint and the use of appropriate restraining aids (where applicable) to minimise the risks that have been identified, for at least two companion animals from the range of dog, cat, ferret, rabbit, and rodentia species
- ◆ explain and demonstrate the correct handling techniques for one companion animal from the range of: dog, cat, ferret; rabbit and three species from the order rodentia
- ◆ demonstrate the correct restraint techniques for at least two veterinary procedures from examination, cephalic vein intravenous injection, jugular vein blood sampling and lateral recumbency in one of the companion animals from the range of: dog, cat and ferret; and intraperitoneal injection in one of the companion animals from the range of: rabbit and rodentia
- ◆ demonstrate the correct restraint techniques for sexing, identify sex and explain how sex is determined in one of the companion animals from the range of: dog, cat, ferret and rabbit; and three species from the order rodentia

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed using a practical observation assessment supported by checklists, demonstrating the appropriate handling techniques, restraint for sexing and identification of sex and restraint techniques for veterinary procedures for a sample of the species from the range identified above. Oral questioning could be used to establish the learner's Knowledge in relation to the first two Evidence Requirements, recorded on the observation checklist.

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

**Unit title:** Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

### **Outcome 2**

Explain the emergency first aid needs and conditions of a range of companion animals

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

- ◆ Principles of first aid
- ◆ Current Legislation
- ◆ First aid triage
- ◆ Vital signs

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ explain the principles of first aid. The explanation must include the basic aims, rules and current legislation regarding the limitations of first aid provision.
- ◆ explain the process of triage in the management of first aid conditions. The explanation must include life threatening, non-life threatening (but urgent) and minor conditions, and should identify at least three conditions which fall into each triage category, seen in companion animals.
- ◆ explain the essential observations and assessment of vital signs of a first aid situation. The explanation must include airway, breathing, circulation, level of consciousness, haemorrhage and loss of function.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This could be assessed together with Outcome 3 using a closed-book, extended response.

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

**Unit title:** Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

### **Outcome 3**

Explain emergency first aid conditions and the appropriate action required for a range of companion animals

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

- ◆ Clinical signs associated
- ◆ Emergency first aid conditions
- ◆ First aid action

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ explain the clinical signs associated with at least five first aid conditions seen in companion animals
- ◆ explain the appropriate first aid action that should be taken for at least five emergency first aid conditions seen in companion animals

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This could be assessed together with Outcome 2 using a closed-book extended response, consisting of structured questions covering a range of common first aid conditions in an invigilated environment.

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

**Unit title:** Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

### **Outcome 4**

Demonstrate the correct application and explain the management of bandages of companion animals in a first aid context

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

- ◆ Dressings
- ◆ Bandaging materials
- ◆ Bandaging techniques
- ◆ Aftercare

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ select the correct dressing and bandaging materials
- ◆ apply a paw and ear bandage in a first aid context
- ◆ explain the management of aftercare for a bandaged companion animal

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Outcome 4 could be assessed using a practical observation assessment and oral questioning.

## Administrative Information

<b>Unit code:</b>	F3V3 34
<b>Unit title:</b>	Companion Animal Handling and First Aid
<b>Superclass category:</b>	SP
<b>Original date of publication:</b>	August 2008
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### History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Minor amendments to Outcome 1 Assessment Guidelines.	28/10/14

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## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

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/D in Animal Care. The Unit will also be useful for animal care professionals and other candidates wishing to work within the animal care industry.

Additional information relating to each Outcome is given below:

- 1 The lecture sessions for this Outcome should explain the risks associated with handling and restraint of dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and rodentia and how to identify and reduce these risks. This should include the appropriate protective clothing and restraining aids available eg latex gloves, face masks, disposable gowns/aprons, muzzles, catchers, crush cages, gauntlets, towels/blankets) and how/when to use them. Lectures should also cover the range of appropriate handling techniques for lifting dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and rodentia and restraint of species for examination, sex determination, cephalic vein intravenous injection, intraperitoneal injection, jugular vein blood sampling and lateral recumbency in appropriate species. The determination of sex should also be discussed.
- 2 The principles of first aid will include the basic aims of preservation of life, prevention of deterioration and alleviation of pain/suffering, basic rules and the legal limitations of administering first aid dependent on qualifications, citing The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. Triage of conditions depending on whether they are life threatening, non-life threatening (urgent) or minor emergencies. Observation and assessment of the animals vital signs (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, level of Consciousness) should be covered, discussion of the 'A CRASH PLAN' acronym would also be beneficial.
- 3 The lecture sessions for this Outcome should discuss in detail the clinical signs associated with a range of common first aid condition and the reasons for these signs. For each condition the appropriate first aid action that needs to be taken should be explained, taking into account the legal limitations of individuals. Conditions which should be covered include: shock, seizures, collapse, gastric dilation/volvulus, haemorrhage, hypo/hyperthermia, poisoning, burns/scalds, fractures, dislocations, wounds, foreign bodies, thoracic and abdominal injuries, neonatal and obstetric conditions, dysuria/anuria, prolapses, insect bites, special senses conditions.
- 4 Common types of dressing and bandaging materials available and their uses should be explained. Bandaging techniques used in a first aid context for the paw, ear and tail should be covered. It would also be beneficial to cover other techniques eg chest and abdominal bandaging. Explanation of the appropriate aftercare required for bandaged animals should include signs of problems associated with the bandage, prevention of these problems and action required.

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

**Unit title:** Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

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

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award within the Animal Care HNC/HND framework. It could also be delivered as a standalone Unit for candidates who are employed within the animal care industry. The delivery of this Unit should contain a large component of practical handling using live animals. Role play or scenarios would aid in the delivery of Outcome 2 and 3. Work experience or voluntary work which involving animal handling would also be of benefit for candidates enrolled in this Unit.

The first Outcome could be assessed using a practical observation assessment and oral questioning.

The second and third Outcomes could be assessed holistically using a closed-book extended response written paper consisting of structured questions in an invigilated environment.

The fourth Outcome could be assessed using a practical observation assessment and oral questioning.

#### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

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 combined closed-book extended response as instrument of assessment for Outcomes 2 and 3. 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 supplementary reading and research undertaken during this Outcome will facilitate development of the component’s reading element.

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.

These skills can be developed through formative activities, such as any short essays/reports on topics, without formal Core Skill certification.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component Critical Thinking of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6. The general skill of the component is ‘analyse a complex situation or issue’ and related specific skills include identifying relevant factors of the situation or issue, and developing and justifying an approach to deal with it. These skills are of particular relevance to Outcome 4, in which candidates are asked to apply their knowledge to a companion animal. Firstly they will select the correct dressing and bandaging materials, then they apply a paw and ear bandage, and explain the management of aftercare for the animal.



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

**Unit title:** Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

### **Open learning**

Due to the practical bias of this Unit it is not suitable for open learning delivery.

### **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: Companion Animal Handling and First Aid

This Unit is designed to develop your knowledge, understanding and practical abilities as required to competently handle, restrain and sex a range of companion animals. You will also be able to explain first aid conditions and the appropriate action that should be taken, including the application of bandages. This Unit is intended to prepare you for work in the animal care industry.

The Unit consists of four Outcomes, as detailed below.

The first Outcome will enable you to correctly handle and restrain dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and rodentia, this will also include the use of protective clothing, restraining aids and how to correctly determine the sex of the animal. This will not only assist you with later Outcomes but also with other Units that you may be studying on your course.

The second Outcome will ensure you are able to evaluate the first aid needs of an animal, covering the basic aims, rules and triage and understand the appropriate action that should be taken in these situations, taking into account the legal implications of providing first aid. This Outcome ties will be of use when studying Outcome 3 as they are closely linked.

For the third Outcome you will study specific commonly seen emergency first aid conditions. This will include the clinical signs an animal is likely to show and why these signs are seen and the appropriate action that should be taken to deal with each condition. You will cover conditions ranging from life-threatening to minor emergencies.

The fourth Outcome will cover the types of dressing and bandages commonly available and their uses. It will also cover the application of a range of bandaging techniques and the management of the bandaged animal.

You are advised to gain as much practical experience as possible. Visits, work experience or voluntary work would allow you to increase both your practical skills and knowledge and understanding of handling and sexing companion animals. Veterinary practices in particular could offer valuable experience relating to Outcomes two, three and four.

To complete this Unit successfully you will have to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in the practical and oral assessments. You will have to be able to handle, restrain and sex a range of companion animals, apply a bandage and understand the first aid needs. You will have to undertake assessments in controlled conditions.

This Unit is intended to prepare you for work in the animal care industry but is equally valuable if you have an interest in working within the veterinary or welfare fields.

In undertaking this Unit there may be opportunities for you to develop Core Skills in the areas of *Problem Solving*, and *Communication*.