



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Large Animal Healthcare Studies

**Unit code:** H0YG 34

**Superclass:** SH

**Publication date:** March 2012

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**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to introduce the candidate to various aspects of large domestic animal nursing practice. It will enable the candidate to gain knowledge and understanding of a range of large domestic animals, how to handle them, commonly performed procedures and common diseases that may affect them. The Unit is intended for candidates wishing to work in the veterinary nursing or related fields.

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

- 1 Identify and compare the anatomy and physiology of large domestic animals.
- 2 Perform appropriate handling and restraint procedures to facilitate the examination or transportation of large domestic animals.
- 3 Describe large animal preventative healthcare regimes.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Candidates should have achieved a credit level pass in Standard Grade Biology or equivalent. Experience of handling large domestic animals would be beneficial.

### Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit 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.*

## **General information (cont)**

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at 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. It is included in the framework of the HND in Veterinary Nursing.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Large Animal Healthcare Studies

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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

Identify and compare the anatomy and physiology of large domestic animals.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Internal and external anatomical features
  - musculoskeletal landmarks
  - major internal organs
  - venous and arterial access points
  - external genitalia
- ◆ Skeletal structure
  - axial skeleton, fore limb and hind limb
  - relative structure and function of the hoof
  - equine guttural pouches
  - equine ligaments and tendons
- ◆ Dentition
  - dental formulae
  - species variation
- ◆ Digestive system
  - location, structure and function of the alimentary tract from lips to anus
  - comparative digestion
- ◆ Reproductive system.
  - comparative features of the male and female gonad and tubular system
  - accessory male sex organs
  - comparative oestrus cycles
- ◆ Normal biological parameters, including temperature, pulse and respiration
- ◆ Equine atrio-ventricular block
- ◆ Equine obligate nasal breathing
- ◆ Equine endotoxic cascade.

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

**Unit title:** Large Animal Healthcare Studies

### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify 10 anatomical features (including both internal and external) of each of three large domestic animals
- ◆ compare the axial or appendicular skeletal structure of one bovine and one equine
- ◆ compare the dentition and digestive system of one omnivore and one herbivore
- ◆ compare the reproductive anatomy of an equine with any other large domestic animal
- ◆ compare the oestrus cycles of any two large domestic animals.

### Outcome 2

Perform appropriate handling and restraint procedures to facilitate the examination or transportation of large domestic animals.

### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Relevant health and safety legislation
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
- ◆ Protective clothing
- ◆ Handling equipment
- ◆ Restraint equipment
- ◆ Recognising and responding to animal behaviour
  - normal
  - fearful
  - aggressive
  - pain, distress and alarm
- ◆ Approaching animals correctly
- ◆ Handling and restraint techniques appropriate to the species
- ◆ Correct transportation procedures
- ◆ Clinical examination
  - signs of health and ill health
  - hoof health
  - dental health
- ◆ Condition scoring

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

**Unit title:** Large Animal Healthcare Studies

### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ approach, restrain and lead a horse (including the correct application of a head collar)
- ◆ handle and restrain a minimum of one other large domestic animal, on two occasions, using appropriate handling and restraint equipment and techniques
- ◆ perform a visual examination of and condition score any two large domestic animals.

Both the assessor and the candidate must take health and safety into consideration when collecting the performance evidence. Practical activities involving large animals must be risk assessed.

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

- ◆ describe appropriate methods used to handle and restrain aggressive individuals of two different types of large domestic animal.

### Outcome 3

Describe large animal preventative healthcare regimes

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Health care plans
- ◆ Methods of identification
- ◆ Hoof care
- ◆ Dental care
- ◆ Parasite control
- ◆ Vaccination
- ◆ Tuberculin testing
- ◆ Blood sampling (BVD, Johnes etc)
- ◆ Milk testing
- ◆ Record keeping
- ◆ Species specific nutritional requirements

### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe a preventative health care plan for one large animal of their choice.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Large Animal Healthcare Studies

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

Although this Unit may be taken by candidates wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills, it is primarily intended for candidates who are studying towards the HND in Veterinary Nursing and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

The Unit is specifically designed to introduce veterinary nursing students or other interested parties to the handling and care of large domestic animals, including bovines, ovines, caprines, porcines and equine.

Health and safety legislation should be referred to throughout this Unit, and must be current at the time of delivery. At the time of writing this includes the following:

- ◆ Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- ◆ Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations (2002)
- ◆ Reporting of Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Register (RIDDOR) (1995)
- ◆ First Aid at Work

Additional information relating to each Outcome is given below.

#### Outcome 1

The emphasis of this Outcome should be on the variations between large domestic animal species. Candidates should have a clear understanding of how ruminants differ from simple stomach animals and the implications thereof. Temperature, pulse and respiration rates are very important when nursing animals: these parameters should be covered for each of the species mentioned above.

#### Outcome 2

This Outcome is designed to introduce candidates to the handling and restraint of large animals. Candidates should become familiar with equipment such as crush pens, handling crates, halters and bridles. This Outcome should be treated in a practical context, with candidates being shown how to handle and restrain animals on a regular basis. It should be borne in mind that some candidates will not have any prior experience of handling large animals. Sufficient practice must be given to enable candidates to attain a suitable level of competence before being assessed. Health and safety must be a priority when delivering this Outcome.

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

**Unit title:** Large Animal Healthcare Studies

### Outcome 3

This Outcome focuses on the preventative healthcare requirements of large animal species. Specific emphasis should be placed on prophylactic health care plans, vaccines and parasite control. Species specific nutritional requirements should only be covered briefly, mentioning the relative nutritional needs of the herbivores versus the omnivores and any excess or deficiency conditions that may be specific to each species.

### Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

This Unit has been devised with the intention that it forms part of the options within the framework of an HND in Veterinary Nursing and should be delivered with that in mind.

In respect to the HND in Veterinary Nursing, this Unit should ideally be delivered at the same time as, or after, the Units *Veterinary Nursing: Canine and Feline Anatomy and Physiology* and *Veterinary Practice: Operational Requirements*.

It is envisaged that most of the delivery of this Unit will be a combination of classroom-based lectures and practical sessions.

### Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

Centres should feel free to adopt an appropriate assessment strategy provided that it meets the specifications given in the Statement of Standards for this Unit.

### Assessment Guidelines

#### Outcome 1

The assessment of the Outcome could be conducted as a closed-book written test undertaken in controlled conditions and lasting one hour.

#### Outcome 2

This Outcome could be assessed during normal practical sessions. Observation checklists should be used to record performance and should be retained for authentication purposes.

Oral questioning could be used to assess understanding of the techniques employed and the handling and restraining of aggressive animals.

#### Outcome 3

The evidence for this Outcome could be obtained by the candidate producing an annotated poster in open-book conditions

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

**Unit title:** Large Animal Healthcare Studies

### Online and Distance Learning

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice, please refer to the SQA guide: *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at level 5 in Outcome 2 through the practical activities being undertaken: handling and restraint of large domestic animals should never be taken singlehandedly. Note that there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

### Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)



## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Large Animal Healthcare Studies

This Unit is designed to introduce you to large domestic animals, specifically cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses. Specifically, the aim of the Unit is to introduce you to some of the variations you may be faced with if working in a mixed or large animal practice. You may be required to accompany vets while on visits where knowledge of large animals may be essential. The Unit will also be useful when dealing with owners of large animals on a regular basis within the practice.

The Unit is organised into three learning Outcomes covering the following topics:

- ◆ comparative anatomy and physiology
- ◆ handling and restraint
- ◆ preventative health care regimes

Assessments: Outcome 1 will be assessed using a closed-book written assessment consisting of extended response questions and diagrams. Outcome 2 will be assessed using performance evidence supported by oral questioning. The assessment of Outcome 3 will be based on an annotated poster prepared in open-book conditions.