



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Wildlife Nursing and Rehabilitation

Unit code: H0YM 34

Superclass: SP

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed for the candidate to develop a knowledge and understanding of the nursing needs of a range of native vertebrate wildlife in terms of their habitat, dietary, nursing and legislative requirements.

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

- 1 Describe the habitat and dietary requirements of vertebrate wildlife of the UK.
- 2 Identify legislative factors that are pertinent to the rescue, care and release of vertebrate wildlife in the UK.
- 3 Explain the specialist nursing and handling requirements of wild vertebrate species commonly presented for treatment in UK veterinary practices and rehabilitation centres.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Ideally candidates should have a good knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of healthy animals, along with general animal first aid and handling techniques. Prior achievement of the level 7 HN Units *Veterinary Nursing: Canine and Feline Anatomy and Physiology* and *Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures* 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 *Communication* at 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. It is included in the framework of the HNC/D in Veterinary Nursing.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Describe the habitat and dietary requirements of vertebrate wildlife of the UK.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Identification of vertebrate wildlife found in the UK.
- ◆ Natural habitat of vertebrate wildlife found in the UK.
- ◆ Temporary housing requirements for wild species undergoing treatment and during recovery.
- ◆ Dietary needs in the wild and how these can be applied in captivity.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify from pictures six native mammals, six native birds, two native reptiles and one native amphibian
- ◆ describe briefly the natural habitat, temporary housing requirements, normal diet and suitable captive diet for six species.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Wildlife Nursing and Rehabilitation

Outcome 2

Identify legislative factors that are pertinent to the rescue, care and release of vertebrate wildlife in the UK.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current general legislation relevant to the management and welfare of vertebrate wildlife in the UK.
- ◆ Legislation that applies to wild vertebrate species being kept in captivity or released back into the wild.
- ◆ Zoonotic disease present in UK wildlife.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the key principles of four pieces of legislation that are pertinent to the management and welfare of British wildlife
- ◆ describe the precautions to be taken in the event of one named zoonotic disease in one wild vertebrate species.

Outcome 3

Explain the specialist nursing and handling requirements of wild vertebrate species commonly presented for treatment in UK veterinary practices and rehabilitation centres.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Handling techniques for dealing with wild species that may be admitted to veterinary practices or rehabilitation centres.
- ◆ Nursing practices for injured wildlife.
- ◆ Nursing practices for poisoned wildlife.
- ◆ Nursing practices for oil-contaminated wildlife.
- ◆ Specialist care of neonates.
- ◆ Suitable release conditions for wild fauna.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain how to handle one native wild mammal and one native wild bird
- ◆ describe the nursing requirements of one injured mammal and one injured bird
- ◆ describe the nursing requirements for one poisoned mammal and one oil-contaminated bird
- ◆ describe the specialist care of one neonate mammal and one neonate bird and the conditions suitable for their eventual release

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Wildlife Nursing and Rehabilitation

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 designed to allow the candidate to develop a knowledge and understanding of the nursing needs of a range of UK vertebrate wildlife in terms of their habitat, dietary, nursing and legislative requirements.

Although this Unit may be taken on a stand-alone basis by candidates in employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills, it is primarily intended for candidates who are studying towards the HNC/D in Veterinary Nursing and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

Outcome 1

This Outcome develops an awareness of the identification of wildlife so that candidates are able to feed them the appropriate diet and provide them with the correct environment when they are receiving treatment. Teaching should focus on those species the nurse is most likely to encounter in a practice situation and species identified by their common name. Visual aids will enhance the ability of candidates to identify these animals.

Outcome 2

The legislation included in this Outcome should focus on that which is current at the time of delivery of the Unit and must also include primary legislation that is in place for the care of vertebrate animals including the relevant Animal Welfare Acts. In addition, more specific legislation such as CITES in terms of animal trade, and those acts dealing with dangerous wild animals, zoo licensing, wildlife and countryside legislation and species-specific acts such as those in place for badgers and bats must be covered. In addition, legislation that deals with animals that may carry zoonotic disease must also be considered.

Outcome 3

This Outcome deals with the handling techniques for dealing with wild species that may be admitted to veterinary practices or rehabilitation centres. Handling equipment may include graspers, nets, crushes, cages, gloves, blankets, muzzles and humane traps. In terms of the nursing of wild animals and birds their requirements following trauma through oil-contamination, poisoning or injury such as that sustained following a Road Traffic Accident, foreign body, ligature wound or other injury should be detailed.

The specialist care of neonate mammals and fledgling birds should be included and springtime visits to wildlife rescue centres would be beneficial to those studying this Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Wildlife Nursing and Rehabilitation

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Whilst this Unit may be delivered on a standalone basis, it has been designed as part of the HNC/D in Veterinary Nursing. It is recommended that candidates are familiar with communication issues and this may be developed through their experiences in dealing with people during their work placement and through completion of the SCQF level 7 Units *Veterinary Nursing: Canine and Feline Anatomy and Physiology* and *Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures*.

Delivery could involve lectures and class discussions within the college environment supported by workplace experience of working with wild animals and caring for their needs in the practice. The delivery could also include the use of case studies, staff and candidate experience and the use of DVD and visiting speakers such as local wildlife officers, representatives from wildlife organisations and site visits to wildlife centres.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

Outcomes 1 and 2 could be assessed jointly using a closed-book assessment consisting of structured questions and Outcome 3 could consist of a case study and report incorporating the Evidence Requirements for this Outcome.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcome 2, details of which are given under Outcome 2.

Outcome 2

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcome 1 and could be conducted as a closed-book test consisting of structured questions, lasting two hours and undertaken in controlled conditions.

Outcome 3

The assessment of this Outcome could be in the form of a 1,500–2,000 word report that includes all the Evidence Requirements for the Outcome.

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).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Wildlife Nursing and Rehabilitation

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills Components.

The report for Outcome 3 could provide the opportunity to develop the written component of *Communication* at SCQF level 6. Alternatively, if the report is presented orally this could provide the opportunity to develop the oral component of *Communication* at SCQF level 6.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Wildlife Nursing and Rehabilitation

This Unit is designed to provide knowledge of the husbandry required to ensure that wild animals are cared for in the correct manner in terms of their accommodation and nutritional needs while they are being looked after in a veterinary practice or wildlife rehabilitation centre. The nursing and handling skills necessary for a range of situations will be considered.

The Unit comprises three Outcomes:

Outcome 1

This Outcome develops your awareness of the identification of vertebrate wildlife so that you are able to feed them the appropriate diet and provide them with the correct environment when they are receiving treatment. You will focus on those species you are most likely to encounter in a practice situation and you must be able to identify the species by common name.

Outcome 2

The legislation included in this Outcome will focus on that which is current at the time of delivery of the Unit and will also include primary legislation that is in place for the care of vertebrate animals including the relevant Animal Welfare Acts. In addition, more specific legislation such as CITES in terms of animal trade, and those acts dealing with dangerous wild animals, zoo licensing, wildlife and countryside legislation and species specific acts such as those in place for badgers and bats will be covered. In addition, legislation that deals with animals that may carry zoonotic disease will be considered.

Outcome 3

This Outcome deals with the handling techniques for dealing with wild species that may be admitted to veterinary practices or rehabilitation centres. Handling equipment may include graspers, nets, crushes, cages, gloves, blankets, muzzles and humane traps. In terms of the nursing of wild animals and birds, their requirements following trauma through oil-contamination, poisoning or injury such as that sustained following a Road Traffic Accident, foreign body, ligature wound or other injury will be detailed.

The specialist care of neonate mammals and fledgling birds will be included and you will have the opportunity to make springtime visits to wildlife rescue centres.

In order to complete this Unit successfully you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance. Outcomes 1 and 2 will be assessed jointly using a closed-book assessment consisting of structured questions and Outcome 3 will consist of an investigation and a report.