



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Unit code: H101 34

Superclass: SN

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Unit purpose

This Unit designed to assist candidates to gain a range of skills to support diagnostic practices, first aid and nursing care. Diagnostic practices include laboratory techniques involving the preparation, collection, processing and preservation of a range of samples. It also covers a variety of imaging techniques. The candidate will also develop an ability to cope with emergency and critical care from both a first aid and a nursing perspective.

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

- 1 Provide veterinary nursing support for diagnostic imaging.
- 2 Provide veterinary nursing support for laboratory diagnostics.
- 3 Plan, deliver and evaluate nursing care for dog, cat and exotic patients with a range of medical conditions.
- 4 Carry out small animal emergency and critical care.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

It is recommended that candidates should have completed the SCQF level 7 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1* before starting this Unit and that they are undertaking the level 7 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 3* concurrently with this Unit.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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 Skills of *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at level 5, *Problem Solving* at level 6 and *Working with Others* at level 5 and the Oral Communication component of *Communication* at level 5, 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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

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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

Provide veterinary nursing support for diagnostic imaging.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Nursing support
 - maintain safety of self and others
 - care for personal protective equipment
 - prepare imaging equipment
 - clean imaging equipment
 - maintain imaging equipment
 - store imaging equipment
 - process radiographs
 - evaluate radiographic quality
 - identify film faults
 - prepare and support patients
 - position patients for radiography
 - support patients
 - record imaging results
- ◆ Diagnostic imaging
 - radiography
 - ultrasound
 - endoscopy

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ prepare radiographic imaging equipment for use taking account of health and safety
- ◆ care for and use personal protective equipment correctly
- ◆ prepare and support patients undergoing diagnostic imaging
- ◆ position patients for radiography of the forelimb, spine, hips, hind limb, abdomen and thorax
- ◆ process and evaluate radiographic films
- ◆ prepare, maintain, clean and store ultrasound and endoscopy equipment correctly
- ◆ record the results of diagnostic imaging according to practice procedure

Outcome 2

Provide veterinary nursing support for laboratory diagnostics.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Nursing support
 - prepare animals for the collection of samples
 - collect samples
 - prepare diagnostic test equipment and materials
 - package and label samples
 - store specimens
 - complete laboratory documentation
 - prepare samples for evaluation
 - use laboratory equipment
 - identify and report damage to equipment and materials
 - identify discrepancies in results
 - record and communicate test results
- ◆ Laboratory diagnostics
 - blood
 - urine
 - faeces
 - skin/hair
 - tissue biopsy

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ prepare animals for the collection of blood, urine, hair/skin and tissue biopsies
- ◆ collect urine, faecal, hair/skin and blood samples from animals
- ◆ prepare diagnostic test equipment and materials for blood, urine, hair/skin and tissue biopsies
- ◆ package and label blood, urine, hair/skin and tissue biopsy samples (to include samples placed on microscope slides)
- ◆ store samples correctly prior to dispatch
- ◆ complete internal and external laboratory documentation
- ◆ prepare a blood smear, a skin scrape, a packed cell volume and a urine sediment for evaluation
- ◆ use a range of laboratory equipment ensuring that any damage to equipment or materials is identified and reported
- ◆ record test results, including discrepancies, and communicate results to the veterinary team.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Outcome 3

Plan, deliver and evaluate nursing care for dog, cat and exotic patients with a range of medical conditions.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Plan care
 - nursing models
 - home care
- ◆ Nursing care
 - prepare and maintain a suitable environment
 - carry out barrier or reverse barrier nursing
 - manage wounds
 - administer complex medication
 - assist with or place naso-gastric or oesophageal tubes
 - manage naso-gastric or oesophageal tubes
 - place and manage urinary catheters
 - manage bowel function
 - provide physiotherapy
 - care for terminally ill patients
 - support owners through natural death or euthanasia
 - perform nursing consultations
- ◆ Evaluate care
 - reflective practice
 - review plan
 - communicate with team
- ◆ Medical conditions
 - circulatory disorders
 - respiratory disorders
 - urinary tract disorders
 - endocrine disorders
 - neurological disorders
 - alimentary tract disorders
 - reproductive tract disorders
 - disorders of the sense organs

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ plan and deliver nursing and home care for dogs, cats and exotics with a minimum of four different medical conditions using appropriate nursing models
- ◆ reflect on the nursing and home care for four different medical conditions by reviewing and evaluating the care provided
- ◆ communicate with the veterinary team in relation to the evaluation and review of patient care
- ◆ prepare and maintain suitable environments, taking account species and medical condition
- ◆ barrier or reverse barrier nurse patients in isolation
- ◆ provide wound management and administer complex medication
- ◆ place or assist with the placement and management of naso-gastric or oesophageal tubes
- ◆ perform physiotherapy to maintain circulation and stimulate the patient
- ◆ place urinary catheters and manage indwelling catheters and bowel function
- ◆ provide care for terminally ill patients and support owners through loss
- ◆ perform a range of nursing consultations effectively.

Outcome 4

Carry out small animal emergency and critical care.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Emergency care
 - first aid treatment techniques
 - triage patients
 - prepare for admission of emergency patients
- ◆ Critical care
 - place peripheral intravenous catheters
 - care for patients with intravenous catheters
 - prepare accommodation
 - position patients comfortably
 - support breathing and cardiovascular function
 - administer oxygen therapy
 - maintain nutrition and fluid balance
 - maintain mobility
 - maintain patient hygiene
 - maintain body temperature
 - minimise pain and stress
 - monitor patients

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ triage and demonstrate first aid treatment techniques for patients suffering from unconsciousness, compromised airways, haemorrhage, wounds and fractures
- ◆ prepare equipment, consumables and environment for the admission of emergency patients
- ◆ place peripheral catheters and care for in situ intravenous catheters in dogs and cats
- ◆ prepare accommodation for and position critically ill patients comfortably
- ◆ support breathing and cardiovascular function and administer oxygen therapy as required
- ◆ maintain body temperature, hygiene and mobility of critically ill patients
- ◆ maintain nutrition and fluid balance of critically ill patients
- ◆ minimise pain and stress and monitor critically ill patients.

Note: in the interests of animal welfare, first aid treatment techniques may be evidenced through the use of simulations and first aid mannequins, where appropriate.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to assist candidates to gain a range of skills to support diagnostic practices, first aid and nursing care. Diagnostic practices include laboratory techniques involving the preparation, collection, processing and preservation of a range of samples. It also covers a variety of imaging techniques. The candidate will also develop an ability to cope with emergency and critical care from both a first aid and a nursing perspective.

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 HND in Veterinary Nursing and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

Outcome 1

This Outcome focuses on developing the skills required to support the patient and the veterinary team when performing radiography, ultrasound and endoscopy. Due to the health risks associated with ionising radiation, candidates should perform all tasks related to radiography with due regard to safety. This means they should wear/place film badges safely, use and observe warning lights and signs, use screens or stand at a safe distance and wear the personal protective equipment (PPE) provided. Candidates should also be able to care for dose meters, lead aprons and lead gloves effectively.

Preparation of equipment for radiography should include the x-ray machine, cassettes, grids, positioning aids and markers. Preparation and storage of the ultrasound machine should include the scanner, probes and transducer. When caring for endoscopy equipment, candidates should be aware of the fragility of the fibre optics.

Positioning for radiography should include the following views: dorsopalmar and mediolateral carpus; craniocaudal and lateral elbow; craniocaudal shoulder; lateral cervical spine, thoracolumbar spine and lumbosacral spine; ventrodorsal hips/pelvis, caudocranial and mediolateral stifle; dorsoplantar and mediolateral hock; ventrodorsal and lateral abdomen; dorsoventral or ventrodorsal and lateral thorax.

When performing positioning tasks, candidates must demonstrate the correct use of positioning aids and markers and be able to centre and collimate effectively.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 is designed to develop the candidate's laboratory diagnostic skills. The range of samples should include blood, urine, hair/skin, tissue and faeces. Candidates should be able to support both the patient and the veterinary team and be able to communicate results to the appropriate clinician. When preparing patients for sample collection, candidates should perform patient checks, demonstrate safe handling and movement and be able to position and restrain patients correctly. Preparation of equipment and materials for blood sampling should include both haematology and biochemistry. Use of laboratory equipment should include biochemistry and haematology analysers, refractometer, commercial test kits (SNAP[®] or reagent test strips) and a centrifuge. When using a microscope, candidates should be able to use both low and high magnification and be able to record vernier scales.

Outcome 3

This Outcome focuses on the development of the candidate's medical nursing skills. This should include the planning, implementation and evaluation of patient care using a recognised nursing model from the time of admission to discharge and home care. Candidates should be involved with this level of care for a range of small animal patients suffering from conditions for a minimum of four different groups of identified pathologies. When preparing suitable environments, this should include a range of species of different ages and medical conditions and should take account of normal routines and animal welfare. Barrier/reverse barrier nursing should cover the preparation of accommodation, PPE, hand hygiene, fomites, cleaning and disinfection, the reduction of stress and provision of company for isolated patients. When managing wounds, candidates should be able to accurately assess wound condition, take swabs, irrigate, select and apply dressings, select and apply retaining bandages and educate the client. Administration of complex medication should include infused medications and intravenous boluses. Bowel function may include the administration of laxatives and enemata. Provision of physiotherapy may involve techniques such as thoracic coupage, passive limb exercises and active exercises. When preparing home care, candidates should consult with the owner and the veterinary team, provide emergency contact details and give both written and oral advice. Nursing care for terminally ill patients should be performed in a sensitive manner and will extend to preparing the owner for loss, supporting the owner through euthanasia and providing follow up support for bereaved owners. Nursing consultations should include history taking, examination, referral of cases to the veterinary surgeon, conducting treatments, communicating with clients and keeping records.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Outcome 4

The final Outcome of this Unit prepares candidates for the provision of emergency and critical care. Candidates should be able to triage patients presenting with a range of conditions including unconsciousness, compromised airway, haemorrhage and fractures. They should also be able to demonstrate first aid techniques for this range of conditions but in the interests of animal welfare this can include the use of simulations and first aid mannequins. When preparing for admission, candidates should assemble both equipment and consumables appropriate to the case and should be able to prepare a suitable environment and accommodation. Candidates are only expected to introduce peripheral catheters into dogs and cats, but care for *in situ* catheters should include site observation and care, maintenance of patency and ongoing fluid therapy. When preparing accommodation for critically ill patients, account must be taken of the type of accommodation, environment, access for observation and monitoring, bedding and observation charts. Monitoring of critically ill patients should include blood pressure, pulse oximetry and neurological observations.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Whilst this Unit may be taken on a standalone basis by candidates in employment 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.

Delivery of this Unit should take place in the veterinary practice which is the candidate's work placement. The Unit involves the development of a range of practical skills under the guidance of a Clinical Coach. The Clinical Coach will monitor progress by mentoring, observing and authenticating the candidate's performance.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit could be assessed holistically.

An RCVS approved electronic portfolio, the Nursing Progress Log (NPL), will be used to record progress and achievement of the required competencies. Achievement of this Unit will be based on the successful completion of VN9 and 10 and SAVN 17 and 18 of the NPL skills list.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 could be assessed jointly with Outcomes 2, 3 and 4. Details of how all Outcomes could be assessed jointly are given at Outcome 4.

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 could be assessed with Outcomes 1, 3 and 4 details of which are given under Outcome 4.

Outcome 3

Outcome 3 could be assessed with Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 details of which are given under Outcome 4.

Outcome 4

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. All assessments relate to performance evidence. A Nursing Progress Log (NPL) of the competencies being demonstrated within the candidate's placement under the guidance of a Clinical Coach (CC) could be used to gather evidence. Achievement will be based on the successful completion of all Outcomes and of VN9 and 10 and SAVN 17 and 18 of the NPL skills list.

First aid treatment techniques may be evidenced through the use of simulations and first aid mannequins, where appropriate.

Online and Distance Learning

Completion of this Unit requires the candidate to be working in a veterinary practice.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at level 5, *Problem Solving* at level 6 and *Working with Others* at level 5 and the Oral Communication component of *Communication* at level 5, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The Core Skills component of Oral Communication at level 5 may be developed through interaction with veterinary staff and owners as candidates will be expected to report test results and evaluate and review nursing care to the veterinary team and support owners during patient illness and loss.

Candidates may develop skills associated with the *ICT* element of Preparing and Creating Information at level 5 through the collection of evidence using an electronic portfolio. All elements of *Problem Solving* at level 6 may be demonstrated through the planning, implementation, evaluation and review of care plans for a range of patients with varying care needs. Finally the skills associated with *Working with Others* at level 5 are implicit in the nature of this Unit as candidates are expected to be an effective member of the veterinary team and to work under the direction of veterinary staff.

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: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

This Unit is designed to assist you to gain a range of skills to support diagnostic practices, first aid and nursing care. Diagnostic practices include laboratory techniques involving the preparation, collection, processing and preservation of a range of samples. It also covers a variety of imaging techniques. You will also develop an ability to cope with emergency and critical care from both a first aid and nursing perspective.

It would be beneficial for you to have completed some of the SCQF level 7 Units and started some of the SCQF level 8 Units in the HND Veterinary Nursing framework and to have some experience of working in a veterinary practice before undertaking this Unit.

This Unit consists of four Outcomes:

Outcome 1

The focus of this Outcome is the support of diagnostic imaging in the veterinary practice. You will be required to assist the veterinary team with the preparation of the patient and equipment for a range of imaging techniques including radiography, ultrasound and endoscopy. In addition, you will be required to maintain, clean and store various items of imaging equipment. When participating in radiography you will be required to take account of your own safety and those around you, and you will be required to position small animals in preparation for the production of a range of x-ray images.

Outcome 2

This Outcome deals specifically with the provision of nursing support for laboratory diagnostics. The range of samples covered will include blood, urine, hair/skin, tissue and faeces. On completion of the Outcome you should be able to support both the patient and the veterinary team and be able to prepare, use and maintain a range of diagnostic test equipment.

Outcome 3

In this Outcome you will develop the skills necessary to provide practical nursing support for small animal patients with a range of medical conditions. You will be required to plan, deliver and evaluate nursing care for these patients from the time of admission until they are discharged to their owners. When planning and implementing care you will be required to take account of the species, its age and the medical condition it is suffering from. Home care planning will require you to liaise with the owner and the veterinary team and you should be able to communicate the home care plan both orally and in a written format. You will also be involved with all aspects of nursing consultations.

General information for candidates (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 2

Outcome 4

This Outcome will develop your ability to deal with emergency and critical care situations. You will require to triage and perform first aid treatments for small animals suffering from a range of emergency conditions. Critical care will involve nursing skills such as the administration of complex medication and the provision of physiotherapy, and will extend to include the needs of terminally ill patients and the support of their owners.

Assessment

In order to complete this Unit successfully you will be assessed on your practical skills and required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance. Evidence of this will be gathered through the completion of all Outcomes and also an electronic portfolio charting the skills you have participated in and the experience you have gathered while in the practice placement under the guidance of a Clinical Coach. Achievement will be based on the successful completion of VN9 and 10 and SAVN 17 and 18 of the NPL skills list.