

**-SQA-SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY**

**NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**-Module Number-**                      1180048                                      **-Session-1998-99**

**-Superclass-**                      SN

**-Title-**                                      **VETERINARY CARE AUXILIARY: FIRST AID FOR COMPANION ANIMALS**

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**-DESCRIPTION-**

**GENERAL COMPETENCE FOR UNIT:** Identifying first aid situations in a veterinary practice or animal care centre, and taking appropriate action. Identifying limitations on first aid treatment.

This unit must be delivered by either a veterinary surgeon or an experienced veterinary nurse. Further details on centre requirements for delivery are outlined in the support notes.

**OUTCOMES**

1. identify urgent conditions in companion animals requiring first aid and carry out a preliminary examination
2. describe the basic triage procedures used in first aid;
3. demonstrate the restraint and transport of injured companion animals;
4. identify appropriate bandages and dressings for injured companion animals;
5. perform basic bandaging techniques for companion animals.

**CREDIT VALUE:** 1 NC Credit

**ACCESS STATEMENT:** No formal entry requirements.

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For further information contact: Committee and Administration Unit, SQA, Hanover House, 24 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 7NQ.

Additional copies of this unit may be purchased from SQA (Sales and Despatch section). At the time of publication, the cost is £1.50 (minimum order £5.00).

**NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION****STATEMENT OF STANDARDS****UNIT NUMBER:** 1180048**UNIT TITLE:** VETERINARY CARE AUXILIARY: FIRST AID FOR  
COMPANION ANIMALS

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

**OUTCOME**

1. IDENTIFY URGENT CONDITIONS IN COMPANION ANIMALS REQUIRING FIRST AID AND CARRY OUT A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- (a) Relevant information is accurately obtained as to the nature and duration of the injury.
- (b) An assessment of the urgency of the condition is made and appropriate action taken.
- (c) Injured animals are examined to assess the nature and extent of their injuries.

**RANGE STATEMENT**

Appropriate action: first aid or refer to the veterinary surgeon/veterinary nurse.

Examination: assessment of airway; breathing and circulation; presence of shock; level of consciousness; evidence of haemorrhage; evidence of other injury.

Urgent conditions which should be recognised: haemorrhage; shock; injuries resulting in wounds; fractures and dislocations; hyper/hypothermia; convulsions; paralysis; cardiovascular and respiratory emergencies; urogenital and digestive system emergencies.

**EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Written and or oral evidence to cover performance criteria (a), (b) and (d).  
Simulation to cover performance criterion (c)

**OUTCOME**

2. DESCRIBE THE BASIC TRIAGE PROCEDURES USED IN FIRST AID

**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- (a) Procedures for the maintenance of life are correctly described.
- (b) Procedures for the first aid treatment of haemorrhage are correctly demonstrated.
- (c) Procedures for the first aid treatment of minor wounds and skeletal damage are described.
- (d) Appropriate action for the first aid treatment of other conditions is correctly described.

**RANGE STATEMENT**

Maintenance of life: airway; breathing; circulation.

Haemorrhage control: tourniquet; pressure bandage; digital pressure.

Minor wounds: burns; scald; bee and wasp stings; cuts; penetrating injuries.

Skeletal damage: fractures and dislocations.

Conditions: shock; hyper/hypothermia; convulsions; paralysis, cardiovascular and respiratory emergencies; urogenital and digestive system emergencies.

Appropriate action: first aid or refer to veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse.

**EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Written and/or oral evidence for performance criteria (a), (c) and (d). Performance evidence by simulation for performance criterion (b).

**OUTCOME****3. DEMONSTRATE THE RESTRAINT AND TRANSPORT OF INJURED COMPANION ANIMALS****PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- (a) The necessity to restrain and transport animals in a manner which prevents further injury is clearly explained.
- (b) Methods of restraint and transportation are clearly identified relative to the first aid situation.
- (c) Methods of restraint and transportation are correctly demonstrated.
- (d) The principles of first aid are maintained during transportation.
- (e) The safety of both people and the animal is ensured throughout all procedures.

**RANGE STATEMENT**

Methods of restraint: collars and leads; muzzles; blankets.

Methods of transportation: stretcher; basket.

**EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Performance evidence by simulation to cover all performance criteria.

Written and/or oral evidence for performance criteria (a) and (b).

**OUTCOME****4. IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE BANDAGES AND DRESSINGS FOR INJURED COMPANION ANIMALS****PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- (a) The indications and contraindications for bandaging are clearly described.
- (b) The features of different first aid dressings and bandage types are clearly described.
- (c) Correct bandages and dressings are selected for emergency situations.
- (d) Problems associated with bandages and the recommended action are clearly described.
- (e) The advice required by an owner on the care of a bandage is clearly described.

**RANGE STATEMENT**

Bandages: conforming and non-conforming.

Problems: animal interference; incorrect application of the bandage; deterioration of the bandage.

**EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Written and/or oral evidence for performance criteria (a), (b), (d) and (e), performance evidence for (c).

**OUTCOME**

5. PERFORM BASIC BANDAGING TECHNIQUES FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- (a) Appropriate equipment is correctly selected to perform basic bandaging techniques.
- (b) The animal is correctly restrained to prevent further injury to the animal or person.
- (c) An appropriate dressing and bandage is correctly applied.
- (d) Methods to prevent interference with bandages are clearly demonstrated.

**RANGE STATEMENT**

Basic bandaging techniques: foot; head; tail.

Prevention of interference: collars; chemical substances.

**EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Performance evidence for all performance criteria to cover one bandaging technique and one method of prevention of interference.

Written and/or oral evidence to support the range.

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**ASSESSMENT**

In order to achieve this unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. The assessment instruments used should follow the general guidance offered by the SQA assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Accurate records should be made of the assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each outcome and giving marking schemes and/or checklists, etc. Records of candidates' achievements should be kept. These records will be available for external verification.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

In certain cases, modified outcomes and range statements can be proposed for certification. See references at end of support notes.

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**NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION****SUPPORT NOTES**

**UNIT NUMBER:** 1180048

**UNIT TITLE:** VETERINARY CARE AUXILIARY: FIRST AID FOR  
COMPANION ANIMALS

**SUPPORT NOTES:** This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

**NOTIONAL DESIGN LENGTH:** SQA allocates a notional design length to a unit on the basis of time estimated for achievement of the stated standards by a candidate whose starting point is as described in the access statement. The notional design length for this unit is 40 hours. The use of notional design length for programme design and timetabling is advisory only.

**PURPOSE** SQA publishes summaries of NC units for easy reference, publicity purposes, centre handbooks, etc. The summary statement for this unit is as follows:

On completion of this unit the candidate will be conversant with conditions requiring first aid, their treatment and management. They will appreciate the need for adequate restraint and appropriate transportation and they will be able to carry out basic animal first aid procedures.

It is recommended by the RCVS that these modules are delivered by a veterinary surgeon or an experienced veterinary nurse.

It should be noted that considerable resources are required to deliver these modules.

**Centre Requirements for Unit Delivery**

**Teaching Staff:** appropriately qualified Veterinary Surgeons or Veterinary Nurses only should be responsible for the delivery and assessment of this unit. The use of speakers/guest practitioners in appropriate areas should be considered.

**Veterinary Practice:** access to a veterinary practice is required to cover the Outcomes in this unit adequately.



Physical Resources:

- Examination room equipped with appropriate tables, all handling aids as required in the Range.
- Stretcher and appropriate transportation equipment for injured animals.
- Selection of appropriate dressings and bandages, devices to prevent interference with injuries
- Elizabethan collars/no bite collars.

**CONTENT/CONTEXT** This unit is designed primarily for dogs and cats with an overview of small mammals and birds where appropriate.

First aid situations within a veterinary practice may be telephone calls for immediate advice or may require first aid to be carried out on an animal brought into the surgery. The most basic procedures to maintain life and prevent the condition from deteriorating are included, a detailed knowledge of veterinary conditions is not required.

Corresponding to outcomes:

1. The emphasis should be on the most common first aid situations encountered in small animal practice. The candidate should be able to assess the condition and either apply appropriate first aid, supply advice or refer the situation to a more experienced colleague or veterinary surgeon. In all circumstances the veterinary surgeon should be informed of the animal's potential problem as soon as possible. The examination to assess the extent of injury is a systematic, gross examination made in order to either relay information to a more experienced colleague or veterinary surgeon or to allow first aid to be carried out. Cardiovascular respiratory, urogenital and digestive conditions should be those which either are life threatening, require immediate first aid or immediate veterinary treatment.
2. The basic techniques should include cardiac massage, checking and maintenance of a patent airway, artificial respiration and management to prevent further injury occurring. Basic haemorrhage control, the assessment and first aid treatment of small wounds, the use of splints in the first aid of fractures and the first aid treatment of other conditions should all be covered in adequate detail to allow the candidate to perform these tasks if the required first aid situation arose.
3. The method of restraint for transportation should take into account the nature of the animal as well as the nature of the condition. Improvised carriers should be mentioned and the importance of checking the animal's condition during transportation stressed. The unpredictable nature of an animal in pain should be borne in mind to ensure the safety of the candidate and the animal.

4. The requirements for different materials depending on the type of wound should be explained. The problems associated with the application of a bandage and the requirement to keep the bandage clean and dry should be emphasised. The requirement for the owner to check the bandage routinely and to return for rebandaging/removal of the bandage should be included.
5. The bandage which is applied should be comfortable and adequate for the situation described. A basic bandage should be applied to head, foot and tail, no outer covering is required but the requirement for the use of an outer covering in more permanent bandages should be appreciated.

**APPROACHES TO GENERATING EVIDENCE** Outcome 1 should be covered by formal classes prior to the commencement of practical classes. The conditions in this outcome should be used to demonstrate and illustrate the required first aid procedures throughout the unit.

Introductory classes should cover all aspects of the unit and thereafter the candidate should obtain practical instruction both in college and in the veterinary practice. Assessments carried out in practice are unlikely to be supervised by a workplace assessor with the appropriate D Units. The term workplace supervisor will therefore be used with the role of witness to the ability of the candidate to carry out the tasks within the unit. In most circumstances this would be necessary to ensure the Range is adequately covered.

It is unlikely that the candidate will be called upon in practice to deliver First Aid. All the practical assessments can therefore be carried out in a simulated practice environment within the College. The use of videos on Bandaging would be beneficial.

**ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES** Corresponding to outcomes:

1. A written test in the form of restricted response questions for performance criteria (a), (b) and (d) with a simulation practical for performance criterion (c). Within the simulated practical it may be appropriate to cover some items for performance criteria (a), (b) and (d).
2. A written test in the form of restricted response questions with oral questioning to support the range. Alternatively the required practical simulation for performance criterion (b) could be extended to cover a larger part of the range.
3. Performance and oral evidence in the form of a simulation to cover all performance criteria. Written and/or oral questioning to support the range.
4. A spot examination to identify the types and uses of dressing and bandages. Restricted response questions to identify problems and their solutions. Oral questioning to cover performance criterion (e).
5. Practical assessment of the application of bandages. Oral questioning to support the range.

**RECOGNITION** Many SQA NC units are recognised for entry/recruitment purposes. For up-to-date information see the SQA guide 'Recognised Groupings of National Certificate Modules'.

## REFERENCES

1. Guide to unit writing. (A018).
2. For a fuller discussion on assessment issues, please refer to SQA's Guide to Assessment. (B005).
3. Procedures for special needs statements are set out in SQA's guide 'Candidates with Special Needs'. (B006).
4. Information for centres on SQA's operating procedures is contained in SQA's Guide to Procedures. (F009).
5. For details of other SQA publications, please consult SQA's publications list. (X037).

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