

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Animal Handling: An Introduction (Intermediate 1)
CODE	DX0Y 10
COURSE	Rural Skills (Intermediate 1)

SUMMARY

This Unit is an optional Unit within the Rural Skills Course at Intermediate 1 and is designed to be taken as part of this Course. It is suitable for candidates with no previous land-based or employment experience. The Unit allows candidates to develop some of the basic knowledge and skills required to handle animals in a work setting. Candidates will develop the basic skills and knowledge required to move and restrain animals for a purpose that is usual for that species. This Unit has been designed for delivery in context for one or more categories of animal.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Assist with the movement and control of animals.
- 2 Assist with the restraint of animals for the purpose of examination.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

0.5 credit at Intermediate 1 (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*).

**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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass:	SH
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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

Opportunities for developing aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in *Guidance on Learning and Teaching Approaches for this Unit*.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Assist with the movement and control of animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Contribute to a method of movement that ensures stress is minimised for the animals at all times.
- (b) Demonstrate an understanding of the behaviour of animals when being moved.
- (c) Demonstrate safe working practices.

OUTCOME 2

Assist with the restraint of animals for the purpose of examination.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Assist in catching an identified animal that is loose in an enclosure.
- (b) Effectively assist in using one type of restraint appropriate for the animal.
- (c) Assist in the presentation of an animal for examination.
- (d) Demonstrate safe working practices.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Performance evidence supported by an assessor observation checklist is required to show that all Outcomes and Performance Criteria have been achieved.

Evidence must be gathered in an appropriate context where live animals are kept in working environments or simulated working environments. For each Outcome, evidence is required in relation to **one or more categories** of animal. The animal(s) can be selected from the following:

- ◆ horses
- ◆ sheep
- ◆ cattle
- ◆ pigs
- ◆ game birds
- ◆ small 'cage' companion mammals
- ◆ domestic dogs
- ◆ domestic cats

Candidates should be involved in the movement of at least two animals for a given purpose which has been explained to the candidate.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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The assessor observation checklist confirms that the candidate:

- ◆ has contributed to a stress-free movement of animals
- ◆ demonstrated an understanding of behaviour of animals being moved
- ◆ has assisted in catching the identified animal
- ◆ has assisted in restraining an animal
- ◆ has assisted in presenting the animal for examination
- ◆ demonstrated safe working practices throughout

The assessor may choose to carry out the different assessment activities on separate occasions.

The item for this Unit contains an assessor observation checklist. The NAB illustrates the national standard required for this Unit. Centres who wish to devise their own assessments should refer to the NAB to ensure a comparable standard.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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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 20 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit is designed to allow the candidate to develop the basic skills required to move and handle animals as well as developing a basic understanding of expected normal behavioural characteristics of animals when being moved.

This Unit can be delivered in the context of one or more of the following categories:

- ◆ horses
- ◆ sheep
- ◆ cattle
- ◆ pigs
- ◆ game birds
- ◆ small 'cage' companion mammals
- ◆ domestic dogs
- ◆ domestic cats

It is important that learning takes place involving live animals in either a work setting or simulated work setting. Partnerships with Land-based colleges, training providers or employers are likely to provide the most appropriate settings. Candidates should experience the proximity of animals, the working conditions and the associated effects on their senses (smells, dirt, ambient temperatures and noise levels). **It is important that the deployment of appropriate learning environments is preceded by a valid risk assessment, particularly identifying any protective clothing that the candidate may require and any regulations applying to the specific context.**

Outcome 1

The context of delivery for moving animals will vary according to the category chosen. For example, cattle will often be moved from fields to a collecting court for vaccination, dosing, and veterinary inspection. Cattle and sheep may be moved between fields. It would be appropriate to use herding methods for these species. It is important that candidates are made aware of the legal requirements of moving farm livestock off the premises but this need not be an exhaustive examination of the pertinent legislation.

Horses are often moved out from stables to fields for exercise. They are likely to be moved in a much more controlled fashion by leading them. Dogs may be moved out into exercise pens. They are likely to be moved on slip leads and kept apart to avoid fighting. Whatever context is chosen, it is important that the candidate develops an understanding of the appropriate methods for that particular category and how to assist the process in a safe manner. This will mean that the candidate requires a basic understanding of the behavioural norms of that category when being handled in groups or as an individual animal.

