



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: Ornamental Fish Care (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6SP 11

SUMMARY

This Unit may be suitable for candidates who wish to work with ornamental fish. The aim of the Unit is to introduce the concepts of general husbandry for both cold and warm water that are commonly kept in aquaria.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Identify the suitability of species of fish for aquaria and ponds.
- 2 Identify and carry out suitable routines for a range of aquarium species.
- 3 Recognise common health problems in aquarium fish.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

0.5 credit at SCQF level 5 (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*).

**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: SP

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF Level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

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 SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Identify the suitability of species of fish for aquaria and ponds.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify correctly species of fish for aquaria and ponds.
- (b) Describe the suitability of different species of fish for aquaria and ponds.

OUTCOME 2

Identify and carry out suitable routines for a range of aquarium species.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify correctly foodstuffs for different species fish.
- (b) Appropriate foodstuffs for different species are correctly prepared and supplied.
- (c) Type of tank and environmental conditions for different species is correctly described.
- (d) Identify correctly suitable handling techniques for aquarium species.
- (e) Carry out suitable handling techniques for aquarium species.

OUTCOME 3

Recognise common health problems in aquarium fish.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Recognise correctly signs of health and ill-health in fish.
- (b) Recognise correctly common disease problems in fish.
- (c) Describe accurately remedial treatments for common disease problems in aquaria.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

All relevant operational procedures undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current legislation, regulations, codes of practice and manufacturers' recommendations where appropriate.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have met the requirements of all Outcomes and Performance Criteria (PC)

Outcome 1

Performance evidence to identify 10 commonly pond and aquarium species. Written and/or recorded oral evidence of the suitability of five commonly kept species

Outcome 2

Performance evidence of preparing and maintaining two different aquaria and their equipment.

Performance evidence of supplying food to at least three different species of fish with different dietary requirements.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence knowledge of dietary requirements and environmental requirements (including equipment of at least three different fish species)

Outcome 3

Performance evidence of candidate's ability to recognise symptoms of health and two common diseases.

The use of photographs for the purpose of identification of diseases is permitted.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence of candidate's ability to describe remedial treatments for three common diseases.

Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates.

When using Performance Evidence, assessor observation checklists and other assessment records should be maintained and kept up to date to keep track of candidate progress and to provide evidence for internal and external verification purposes.

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 is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 5, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following Lantra, Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standard (NOS) Units:

- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (CU29) Assist with the care of animals
- (CU33) Provide feed and water to animals
- (CU32) Maintain health and welfare of animals
- (CU34) Promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of animals
- (CU37) Establish and maintain animals within their accommodation
- (CU39) Plan, monitor and evaluate the accommodation of animals
- (CU115) Control, handle and restrain animals

On completion of this Unit the candidate will have knowledge of the different species of ornamental fish that are kept, how to set up and maintain different types of fish tank and how to recognise common disease problems in fish. The candidates should also understand the tank suitability for both experienced and inexperienced fish keepers and recognise common husbandry problems.

Physical resources which would be required for the delivery of this Unit include:

- ◆ Variety of fish tanks
- ◆ A working aquarium
- ◆ A variety of filters and tank furniture
- ◆ Appropriate classroom equipment

Corresponding to the Outcomes:

Outcome 1

The candidate should develop a knowledge of different species of aquarium and pond fish that are commonly kept and be able to identify what type of environment is suitable for these fish. This knowledge should allow the candidate to identify suitable species which can be placed together in a community tank or pond.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 2

The candidate should develop a knowledge which allows them to understand how to go about setting up the different types of fish tank and maintain them. They should be aware of the different types of equipment that are available and how to use them and maintain them appropriately.

Outcome 3

The candidate should be able to recognise common disease problems that affect ornamental fish such as white spot, dropsy, septicaemia, toxemia etc. They should also know the signs of ill health and be aware of the importance of choosing healthy fish for a tank set up.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Theory classes should be backed up with practical sessions involving the choosing of fish, setting up and maintenance of at least one type of aquarium. Visits to different establishments with ponds etc may be necessary to ensure all the range points are addressed

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There could be opportunities for the development of the Core Skill *Working with Others* in the practical elements of this Unit but there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate could be presented with pictures of 10 commonly kept fish. Satisfactory achievement would be based on correctly identifying eight of the species.

The candidate could be asked five restricted response questions regarding the suitability of different species. Satisfactory achievement would be based on answering four of the questions correctly.

Outcome 2

The candidate could be observed preparing and maintaining an aquarium and providing food for at least three different species of fish with different dietary requirements.

Satisfactory achievement would be based on carrying out all these procedures in a safe and appropriate manner.

The candidate could be presented with 10 restricted response question papers to cover feeding and environmental requirements for fish. Satisfactory achievement would be based on answering seven of the questions correctly.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

The candidate could be asked five restricted response questions on remedial treatments for common disease.

Satisfactory achievement would be based on answering a least four questions correctly.

Performance evidence of candidate's ability to recognise symptoms of ill health and two common diseases.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

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