



National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Animal Care: Rabbit Care (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: HA1N 45

Superclass: SP

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Unit purpose

This Unit allows the learner to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for the care of rabbits as pets and for those who wish to work with rabbits. The Unit introduces the concepts of general husbandry of rabbits and prevention of health problems associated with inappropriate feeding.

This Unit is suitable for those who wish to pursue a career within the animal care sector or those who keep or wish to keep rabbits as pets.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Identify breeds of rabbits commonly kept as pets in the UK.
- 2 Describe appropriate nutrition and problems associated with inappropriate nutrition for pet rabbits.
- 3 Demonstrate appropriate husbandry and handling practices for pet rabbits.

Credit points and level

0.5 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5)

Recommended entry to the Unit

There are no formal entry requirements for this Unit. Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

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

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.

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

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 breeds of rabbits commonly kept as pets in the UK.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify breeds of rabbit commonly kept in the UK.
- (b) Identify the relative size of different breeds of rabbit.

Outcome 2

Describe appropriate nutrition and problems associated with inappropriate nutrition for pet rabbits.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe appropriate forage materials for pet rabbits.
- (b) Describe the process of caecotrophy.
- (c) Describe appropriate use of concentrate diets for pet rabbits.
- (d) Describe the appropriate use of fruit and vegetables in the rabbit's diet.
- (e) Describe diseases or problems associated with incorrect diet in pet rabbits.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate appropriate husbandry and handling practices for pet rabbits.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe appropriate handling methods for pet rabbits.
- (b) Describe appropriate accommodation for pet rabbits.
- (c) Demonstrate appropriate handling methods for pet rabbits.
- (d) Maintain accommodation for a pet rabbit.

National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Written and/or recorded oral evidence or performance evidence to correctly identify a minimum of seven out of ten commonly kept pet rabbit breeds.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence or performance evidence that the relative size of each pet rabbit breed is correct.

Outcome 2

Written and/or recorded oral evidence describing:

- ◆ the forage requirements of a pet rabbit.
- ◆ the process of caecotrophy.
- ◆ the appropriate use of concentrate diets of a pet rabbit to include the use of:
 - muesli-based diets
 - extruded pellets
 - treats.
- ◆ appropriate use of fruit and vegetables in a pet rabbit's diet.
- ◆ health concerns for pet rabbits fed on an inappropriate diet.

Outcome 3

Written and/or recorded oral evidence to describe:

- ◆ appropriate methods of handling for a pet rabbit.
- ◆ appropriate accommodation for a pet rabbit, to include:
 - provision of food
 - provision of water
 - provision of bedding
 - provision of environmental enrichment
 - appropriate hygiene measures.

Performance evidence demonstrating:

- ◆ appropriate handling techniques for a pet rabbit.
- ◆ correct maintenance of pet rabbit accommodation to include:
 - provision of food
 - water
 - bedding
 - environmental enrichment
 - appropriate hygiene measures.



National Unit Support Notes

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Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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 can be delivered as a free-standing Unit or as a Unit within the SCQF level 4 award in Animal Care.

This Unit is designed to give learners knowledge of essential areas of pet rabbit care.

On completion of this Unit learners will be able to identify a number of the UK's commonly kept pet rabbit breeds as well as problems associated with incorrect provision of nutrition. The Unit also allows the learner to become familiar with the correct handling and husbandry techniques for pet rabbits.

Learners who complete this Unit as part of an Introductory Animal Care course may wish to consider progression to National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 5.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

For purposes of demonstration and completion of practical tasks, it should be possible for learners to have access to equipment appropriate for the accommodation of pet rabbits. Centres may wish to demonstrate examples of different rabbit foodstuffs. Availability of pet rabbits will be essential for completion of the practical tasks.

Outcome 1

The learner should develop a knowledge of and ability to recognise a range of rabbit breeds commonly kept as well as their relative sizes. This knowledge could be gained through classroom discussions, access to live animals, where possible, the learner's own research and photographs. It may also be appropriate to consider the temperament of some of the different breeds.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Outcome 2

The learner should be taught about the feeding and nutritional requirements of rabbits and the process of caecotrophy. The importance of forage for dental health, digestive health and to allow the rabbit to exhibit natural behaviour should be emphasised. Different types of forage may be discussed. The role of concentrates should be discussed along with the use of extruded pellets to eliminate selective feeding and the use of limited treats for bonding or training. Appropriate types of fruit and vegetables and those which should be avoided should be considered. Finally emphasis should be placed on the role of nutrition in preventing common diseases such as dental disease, jaw abscesses, eye problems, behavioural abnormalities, poor digestive function, obesity, diarrhoea and fly-strike. Learners may be able to carry out their own research from on-line resources.

Outcome 3

The learner should be taught the correct methods of a restraint when handling or moving a rabbit. Learners should become familiar with maintaining a rabbit's accommodation in terms of provision of food, forage, water, environmental stimulus and shelter. This may be achieved through a practical approach with demonstrations and learner participation.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

Outcome 1

The learner could be presented with pictures of ten commonly kept rabbit breeds. Satisfactory achievement would be based on correct identification of seven of the breeds. Some centres may have access to a large selection of rabbit breeds in which case performance evidence could be gathered based on identification in live animals. The learner could be asked to state the relative sizes of the breeds identified (for example, dwarf, standard, large or giant), without the necessity to quote actual ideal weights. For centres delivering F6SY 10 *Breed Identification and Selection*, there may be opportunities to combine elements of Outcome 1 of *Rabbit Care* with Outcome 3 of *Breed Identification and Selection*.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Outcome 2

The learner should be able to describe the importance of hay and grass as the main element in the rabbit's diet and should be able to give examples of the best kinds of hay if purchasing commercially produced rabbit foods.

The learner should be able to describe the process of caecotrophy as a means for the rabbit to extract essential nutrients from its diet.

The learner should be able to describe the different forms of concentrate diet available (in the main muesli and extruded pellets) and should be able to describe the risks associated with feeding a muesli-based diet. The learner should be able to describe how over-feeding of concentrate foods will remove the desire to graze.

The learner should be able to describe appropriate use of fruit and vegetables in the rabbit's diet in terms of the foods offered and quantity. The learner should be able to describe the disease situations which may arise from inappropriate nutrition.

This Outcome could be assessed holistically by presenting the learner with ten questions which cover two areas from each of the five Performance Criteria. Alternatively, the Outcome could be assessed by submission of a guided research project which covers each of the Performance Criteria. This Outcome may provide other opportunities for diverse assessment methods.

Outcome 3

Centres could explore opportunities for diverse assessment for some criteria of this Outcome. Centres could present learners with five restricted response questions covering handling and accommodation of rabbits or centres could require learners to produce an information leaflet for potential rabbit owners providing information on appropriate handling and accommodation.

The practical elements of the Outcome could be assessed by observation checklist following development of the learner's skills throughout their practical rotations.

Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this Unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5.

Completion of this Unit could also contribute to the learner's employability skills by allowing them to demonstrate their practical ability in the area of rabbit care.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

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This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is aimed at providing you with a sound understanding of the basic care of rabbits and dispel some of the myths associated with owning a pet rabbit. Successful completion of the Unit will demonstrate that you can identify a selection of the breeds of rabbit commonly kept as pets. You will come to understand the importance of correct feeding practices in all aspects of rabbit health. You will understand about the tasks required when maintaining a rabbit's accommodation and develop the skills to carry out essential routine maintenance duties required to ensure the well-being of rabbits under your care.

The assessment for this Unit is likely to combine both theory and practical assessments to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding as well as your ability to apply them in a practical context.

This Unit might be suitable for you if you are interested in pursuing a career in the Animal Care sector, or if you are simply wanting to keep pet rabbits.