

LANNAC12 - SQA Unit Code F8HE 04

Advise on and place stray or unwanted animals in new home environments



Overview

This standard describes the competences required by those whose work is to find suitable new homes for animals that are stray or unwanted. It reflects the need to assess and verify that prospective owners recognise and understand their duties and obligations as keepers of an animal, and that the facilities that they are able to offer are suitable for the animal. It includes advising on the suitability of an animal, the care required by an animal and the likely costs of keeping them.

The elements are:

1. Advise prospective keepers on the choice and care of animals
2. Assess the suitability of new environments

Element 1 involves the provision of advice to prospective keepers relating to the likely needs, temperament and behaviour of animals for which they wish to provide a home. You will be able to communicate clearly and effectively with prospective keepers.

Element 2 covers the assessment of prospective keepers' homes to ensure that they are suitable for the placement of stray or unwanted animals. You will be able to accurately assess conditions, deal with unrealistic expectations on the part of prospective keepers and to carry out follow-up checks on animal placements.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Advise prospective keepers on the choice and care of animals

- P1 give advice on the likely growth and behaviour patterns of a young animal clearly and in a manner and pace suitable for the individual
- P2 clearly explain the animal's likely needs for feeding, space, exercise, training and likely **maintenance costs** over an average lifetime
- P3 offer and explain written information to reinforce advice and information
- P4 encourage potential keepers to ask questions, seek clarification and make comments at appropriate stages in the discussion
- P5 make recommendations regarding the choice of animal and its care which are tactful and clearly related to the animal's needs and the care and facilities that the potential keeper can offer
- P6 accurately assess the animal's temperament and its likely reaction to **factors** in the new environment and communicate your assessment to the potential keeper
- P7 clearly explain post-placement conditions, care and support services offered by the organisation
- P8 inform prospective keepers of any behavioural or medical conditions that the animal has that may affect the decision to proceed with the placement
- P9 confirm the prospective keeper's understanding of advice about the animal and their intention to proceed

You must be able to:

Assess the suitability of new environments

- P10 identify the potential keeper's expectations and the **care and facilities** they can offer the animal
- P11 set criteria to assess the suitability of the **new environment** according to the animal concerned
- P12 produce criteria that take into account the welfare of the animal, its history and the interests of the potential keeper
- P13 accurately note information relating to the **new environment**, the potential keeper and their lifestyle and use this information to inform decisions
- P14 accurately record the results of the assessment and communicate and explain these results to the potential keeper
- P15 make post-placement checks to confirm that the animal has settled and that any conditions upon the placement have been met

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Advise prospective keepers on the choice and care of animals

- K1 the normal behaviour patterns, temperament and growth of animals
- K2 the needs of animals for company, exercise, food, and space
- K3 how to estimate maintenance costs for an animal
- K4 the factors that should be included in calculation of maintenance costs
- K5 the training options for different breeds of animals
- K6 how to adapt communication methods to meet the needs of individuals
- K7 the sources of information and specialist advice
- K8 the likely reactions of animals to new environments
- K9 the five animal freedoms
- K10 why conditions may be placed on placement agreements
- K11 the support services offered by the organisation

You need to know and understand:

Assess the suitability of new environments

- K12 the methods available for evaluating the suitability of environments
- K13 the available sources of information and specialist advice
- K14 the facilities, care and attention required by different breeds of animal

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Advise prospective keepers on the choice and care of animals

1. estimate the following **maintenance costs**:
 - 1.1. food
 - 1.2. medical and care fees
 - 1.3. training
 - 1.4. accessories
 - 1.5. adaptations to living space and vehicles
2. provide advice relating to the following **factors** in the new environment:
 - 2.1. presence of other animals
 - 2.2. presence of people
 - 2.3. access to space for recreation
 - 2.4. space
 - 2.5. security

Assess the suitability of new environments

3. **care and facilities**:
 - 3.1. living space and structures
 - 3.2. exercise
 - 3.3. company
 - 3.4. food and water
4. **new environment**:
 - 4.1. presence of other animals
 - 4.2. presence of adults and children
 - 4.3. care and facilities

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