
Overview

This standard is designed to be applicable to all animals that require training in basic discipline. This includes the routine training of pets, but also working animals such as guide dogs, hearing dogs, and other animals such as falcons.

You are not expected to be able to develop a training programme and objectives for the animal; you will be following a training plan that has already been developed and would be required to report progress against the objectives set out in the plan.

The elements are:

1. Train animals in basic discipline and to achieve specific objectives
2. Contribute to the evaluation and improvement of animal training programmes

Element 1 is about implementing and evaluating training programmes in basic discipline or to meet specific objectives which may be for show and demonstration work. In this, basic discipline means training in basic handling and for obedience.

Element 2 is about following a training plan that has already been developed and reporting on progress against the objectives set out in the plan.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Train animals in basic discipline and to achieve specific objectives

- P1 **prepare** the animal correctly for the **training** programme
- P2 identify and use the **resources** that are necessary for the planned training activity
- P3 undertake **training** activities and use methods which are in accordance with the **training** programme
- P4 monitor the mental condition and physical behaviour of the animal throughout the **training** and use the results to modify the **training** programme
- P5 handle the animal correctly throughout the **training** in a way that promotes the animal's health and well-being
- P6 report accurately to relevant people progress towards achieving **training**
- P7 take the appropriate remedial action when **training** activities, methods or resources are found to be inappropriate
- P8 use working methods and systems which promote health and safety and which are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice

You must be able to:

Contribute to the evaluation and improvement of animal training programmes

- P9 review the animal's progress towards the training targets regularly consistent with your role
- P10 actively seek the views of others involved in the training and handling of the animal at regular intervals and use them to inform the evaluation
- P11 report promptly to the person with responsibility for the training programme if the animal's progress indicates that the training targets are **unsuitable** for the animal concerned, and make recommendations for modifications to the targets
- P12 record accurately, legibly and completely information regarding the animal's progress and any conclusions drawn
- P13 report the results of your evaluations to the person responsible for the training programme at the times specified in the training programme
- P14 implement agreed changes to the training targets and methods as specified in the training programme and regularly monitor and report the animal's progress

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Train animals in basic discipline and to achieve specific objectives

- K1 how training activities can affect the mental condition of an animal
- K2 how training activities can affect the behaviour of an animal
- K3 the difference between basic training and training for specific activities and how this may affect the training programme as a whole
- K4 how to prepare animals for training and how this differs according to the animal, the environment and the training activity to be undertaken
- K5 signs which indicate mental condition and physical behaviour of the breed of animals
- K6 how to assess an animal's confidence levels and how this is related to performance
- K7 the importance of accurately assessing animal behaviour and condition before and during training activities and taking appropriate action
- K8 correct ways of handling the animal concerned for the safety of the animal, self and others and to enable objectives to be met
- K9 how to provide positive reinforcement to the animal and why this is important
- K10 ways of assessing progress towards objectives and why this should be reported
- K11 your own responsibility under health and safety and animal welfare legislation
- K12 what actions should be taken if the training activities, resources or methods are inappropriate

You need to know and understand:

Contribute to the evaluation and improvement of animal training programmes

- K13 why regular review and reporting are important
- K14 to whom reports of the animal's progress should be made
- K15 the factors that can influence an animal's achievement of the training targets(including physical and mental condition, temperament, diet, the people working with the animal, etc.)
- K16 methods of effective evaluation
- K17 indicators that training targets may not be suitable for the animal and how to recognise them
- K18 how training can be modified to improve its outcomes for the animal
- K19 why it is important to report problems and progress to the person responsible for the training programme, and not implement modifications oneself
- K20 your own responsibility under health and safety and animal welfare legislation

Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Train animals in basic discipline and to achieve specific objectives

1. **prepare** animals in the following ways:
 - 1.1. to meet physical needs (i.e. food, water, rest)
 - 1.2. to meet emotional/mental needs
2. carry out the following kinds of **training**:
 - 2.1. handling
 - 2.2. obedience
 - 2.3. specific objectives
3. identify and use the following **resources**:
 - 3.1. training environment
 - 3.2. equipment
 - 3.3. personnel

Contribute to the evaluation and improvement of animal training programmes

4. recognise and report training targets which are **unsuitable** for these reasons:
 - 4.1. targets are set at too difficult a level for the animal to achieve
 - 4.2. targets are set too low
 - 4.3. the animal shows more potential in another area.

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Implement basic animal training programmes

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