

LANLP39 SQA Unit Code H5B8 04

Introduce new animals to a holding

Overview

This standard covers the management practices and precautions that should be taken when introducing new animals to an established herd/flock, or mixing more than one group from different sources when setting up a new unit. Modern diseases are often highly contagious and spread very rapidly so good bio-security is a key part of this standard.

When working with animals, livestock or machinery you need to be appropriately trained in line with current legislation, and hold a relevant award where appropriate.

This standard is suitable for those who introduce new animals to a holding.

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 introduce the new animal(s) to a holding
 - P2 undertake specific tasks and treatments as advised by the veterinary surgeon to new animals before introducing them to established groups e.g. specific vaccinations and worming
 - P3 take actions to keep new animal(s) isolated from other groups for an appropriate period of time consistent with good bio-security
 - P4 observe the health of new animal(s) with a high degree of vigilance and record any negative signs appropriately
 - P5 seek veterinary advice where appropriate
 - P6 introduce new animal(s) taking adequate steps to avoid any physical bullying, fighting and exposure to disease
 - P7 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
 - P8 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with legislation
 - P9 keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
 - P10 maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 methods of introducing new animals to a holding
- K2 why you need to introduce animals to established groups
- K3 how to source new animals and the advantages and disadvantages of each option
- K4 what an isolation unit is and how they should be used
- K5 early signs of ill health in animals and what these might indicate
- K6 appropriate isolation periods required to detect common infectious diseases
- K7 the current health status of the established group and the health status of the new animal
- K8 how to work with veterinary surgeons to produce a health plan for introducing new animals to a holding
- K9 implications of buying and introducing new animals
- K10 behaviour of animals and what may occur when introducing animals to a group for the first time
- K11 your responsibilities under current environmental, animal welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
- K12 appropriate records to be kept and their significance
- K13 the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this

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