

LANAnC10 - SQA Unit Code HA74 04

Observe and be aware of the behaviour of animals



Overview

This standard is about observing and being aware of the behaviour of animals that you are working with.

This standard involves observing animals as part of your work or studies with them in order to promote their welfare and minimise risks to yourself, the animal and others. You will develop an awareness of how the behaviour of animals is influenced, including your own interactions with the animal.

Users of the standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up-to-date information and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

This standard is suitable for anyone who works with animals.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 maintain your own professional competence and ethics
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P3 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P4 obtain information on the animal where possible, from appropriate sources (e.g. owner, records), to help determine the nature of its behaviour
- P5 observe and recognise the behaviour of the animal and record as appropriate
- P6 be aware of a range of **factors affecting the behaviour of animals** and take into account when interacting with the animal
- P7 interact with the animal in a humane manner that avoids behaviour giving rise to welfare concern and allows observation to be carried out safely
- P8 promote the animal's welfare at all times and adapt your own, or others' behaviour if necessary to avoid creating undesirable behaviour
- P9 identify animal behaviours that may indicate welfare or other problems and report these to the appropriate person
- P10 recognise when behaviour may indicate that you should not continue with the activity
- P11 communicate effectively with others and seek professional advice when necessary
- P12 maintain records as appropriate

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your professional and ethical responsibilities and the need to maintain professional competence
- K2 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K4 how to observe and recognise animal behaviour as part of your interaction with the animal
- K5 how the behaviour of the animal you are working with may be affected
- K6 the way the animal uses its senses and how this affects its behaviour
- K7 how to recognise behavioural and emotional states of animals including fear, frustration, aggression, appeasement, anxiety, play and relaxation
- K8 patterns of normal and abnormal behaviour e.g. stereotypical, repetitive behaviours
- K9 how your actions, or the actions of others, may affect the behaviour and welfare of the animal
- K10 the effects of the animal's environment on its behaviour
- K11 where observed behaviours require reporting to an appropriate person
- K12 the importance of recognising behaviour which indicates it would not be appropriate to continue with the activity
- K13 the importance of habituation to environmental stimuli and an animal's ability or limitations to cope with the features of a captive environment
- K14 the importance of communicating with others and where to seek advice and guidance
- K15 the records that need to be maintained

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Scope/range

Factors affecting the behaviour of animals:

- 1 species-typical behaviour
- 2 hybrid and breed traits
- 3 temperament
- 4 developmental stage (including old age)
- 5 gender
- 6 reproductive status
- 7 motivational needs (including hunger, thirst, threat avoidance, and need for social contact (if appropriate))
- 8 communication patterns
- 9 emotional and mental states
- 10 perceptual abilities
- 11 social organisation and social behaviour
- 12 previous experiences of the animal and responses learnt from these
- 13 fear, frustration, aggression, stress, pain
- 14 ill health, injury, discomfort, disease and distress
- 15 environment and external stimuli experienced
- 16 interaction with humans and other species
- 17 husbandry and management patterns

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Glossary

Current animal welfare legislation:

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

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