Overview

This standard covers maintaining the health and welfare of animals.

It includes monitoring the animals’ physical condition and behaviour, carrying out measures to promote health and welfare and reporting any concerns or unexpected changes.

You will need to be aware of your own limitations and ensure that you meet the legal responsibilities for duty of care under animal health and welfare legislation.

This standard is suitable for anyone who maintains the health and welfare of animals.
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Maintain the health and welfare of animals

**Performance criteria**

*You must be able to:*

- **P1** carry out all work in accordance with instructions and workplace procedures
- **P2** carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- **P3** maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security in accordance with workplace procedures
- **P4** comply with relevant animal health and welfare legislation, other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- **P5** maintain the health and welfare of the animals and reduce the risk of stress and injury
- **P6** monitor animals' physical condition and behaviour
- **P7** monitor the condition of the animals' accommodation and identify any action required
- **P8** monitor environmental conditions and adjust if necessary
- **P9** ensure animals are provided with the appropriate feed and water, and monitor their intake
- **P10** ensure animals are provided with the opportunity for exercise
- **P11** ensure animals are able to maintain their own physical condition and appearance
- **P12** seek assistance immediately for any animal health emergency and initiate action appropriate to the situation
- **P13** keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
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Knowledge and understanding
You need to know and understand:

K1 the importance of carrying out activities in accordance with instructions and workplace procedures

K2 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

K3 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how this can be achieved

K4 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice

K5 the purpose for which the animals are kept and how this may affect their husbandry

K6 how to assess the welfare needs of the animal in your care and how they can be maintained

K7 how to promote the health and well-being of animals and minimise any stress and injury

K8 **signs of health in different animal species**

K9 signs that indicate **potential problems** with animals' health and welfare, and the actions that should be taken

K10 the accommodation requirements for the animals

K11 the animals' requirements for feed and water

K12 the cleaning and feeding routines

K13 how the **environmental conditions** may be adjusted for the health and welfare of the animals

K14 why animals need exercise and how the type and amount of this varies at different times in an animal's life

K15 how animals maintain their own physical condition and appearance

K16 how to recognise a health emergency in an animal and the correct actions to take

K17 how to respond to concerns or issues in relation to your duty of care

K18 the limits of your responsibility and ability in relation to health problems in animals

K19 the importance of maintaining complete and accurate records, as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
## Scope/range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs of health in different animal species in relation to:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 posture and movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 behaviour</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 bodily functioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 social interaction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Potential problems with animal's health and welfare:**

| 6 pain                                                      |
| 7 ill-health                                                |
| 8 injury                                                   |
| 9 pest infestation                                         |
| 10 trauma                                                  |
Glossary

Current animal welfare legislation:

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

Environmental conditions:

- light
- ventilation
- temperature
- humidity
- weather conditions
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