

# LANAnC32 - SQA Unit Code HA7P 04

## Provide first aid to animals



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### Overview

This standard covers the provision of first aid to animals requiring assistance. It includes the health and safety of yourself and others, assessment of animals, safe handling, treatment and transportation of the animal where required.

First aid is the immediate assistance given at the time of injury or illness to prevent deterioration of the condition, suffering and pain until veterinary assistance can be sought. In the UK, in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) anyone can administer emergency first aid to an animal to save life or relieve pain or suffering.

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 needs to provide first aid to animals.

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 maintain the contents of a first aid kit appropriate for the animals you are working with, including personal protective equipment
- P2 assess your **own limitations** to provide first aid to an animal
- P3 apply the aims and principles of first aid to the situation and animal you are faced with
- P4 recognise a potential emergency situation and what to do initially
- P5 assess the type of emergency situation identifying if it is potentially life threatening, requires prompt attention or is minor
- P6 assess the potential risks before approaching the animal
- P7 approach, **handle and restrain** the animal in an appropriate manner
- P8 undertake an initial **primary assessment** of the animal
- P9 recognise the **visual signs** of common conditions and situations and provide the appropriate first aid for the animal
- P10 **monitor animals** following the provision of first aid as appropriate for the animal
- P11 **transport** the animal safely and securely to the veterinary practice if required
- P12 recognise the signs of stress, fear, aggression and pain in animals
- P13 ensure continuity of care of the animal is maintained by handing over to an **appropriate person** and giving details of the first aid assistance provided and the response of the animal
- P14 complete records where required
- P15 comply with relevant animal health and welfare legislation, veterinary and medicines legislation and codes of practice
- P16 ensure working methods promote health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice
- P17 work in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 how to set up, use and maintain a first aid kit suitable for the animals you are working with
- K2 how to assess your own abilities and limitations to provide first aid to animals
- K3 what is meant by the term first aid and the limitations of administering it
- K4 the main aims and objectives of first aid
- K5 the classifications of the three main types of emergency, life-threatening, prompt attention required, or minor
- K6 how to recognise an emergency situation
- K7 the importance of seeking veterinary attention and of knowing where to find the location and contact details of veterinary practices
- K8 how to assess the dangers of providing first aid to an animal
- K9 how to approach, handle and restrain an injured animal appropriately and safely
- K10 how to undertake a primary initial assessment
- K11 the signs and appropriate first aid treatment for a range of common situations or conditions in the species you are working with
- K12 how to monitor the animal following administration of first aid as appropriate for the animal
- K13 how to ensure that the animal's welfare is maintained throughout and that your actions do not cause adverse reactions
- K14 how to move and transport animals safely and securely
- K15 how to recognise behavioural and emotional states of animals including stress, fear, aggression, pain, appeasement, anxiety conflict and avoidance
- K16 the early signs of a change in behaviour associated with ill health, and indicators of injury or pain, discomfort, disease or distress
- K17 methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why it is important
- K18 how to ensure continuity of care for the animal through the handing over of care to an appropriate person and the information that they should be given
- K19 records which should be completed and the information that should be recorded

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- K20 zoonotic risk when working with animals
- K21 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K22 your legal and professional liability when providing first aid to animals
- K23 the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) in relation to the provision of first aid

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### Scope/range

#### Own limitations to provide first aid to an animal to include:

- 1 experience
- 2 species and type of animal
- 3 situation
- 4 type of injury and first aid treatment required

#### Handle and restrain the animal in a way that:

- 5 maintains health and safety of yourself and the animal
- 6 minimises distress to the animal
- 7 promotes animal welfare
- 8 allows assessment and provision of first aid
- 9 reduces the risk of the animal deteriorating

#### Primary assessment of the animal focusing on:

- 10 behaviour
- 11 checking and clearing/maintaining the animal's airway
- 12 checking breathing
- 13 checking circulation
- 14 controlling haemorrhage
- 15 the need for veterinary attention/advice

#### Visual signs of common conditions and situations may include:

- 16 asphyxia/suffocation
- 17 bites
- 18 burns
- 19 collapse
- 20 convulsions/fitting
- 21 drowning
- 22 dystocia
- 23 electrocution
- 24 eye injuries
- 25 fractures
- 26 gastric dilation volvulus/bloat

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- 27 haemorrhage
- 28 hyperthermia/heat-stroke
- 29 hypothermia
- 30 myiasis/fly-strike
- 31 poisoning
- 32 shock
- 33 stings
- 34 unconsciousness
- 35 wounds

**Monitor animals following the provision of first aid may include:**

- 36 the need for veterinary attention/advice
- 37 behaviour
- 38 temperature
- 39 pulse
- 40 respiration
- 41 colour of mucous membranes
- 42 posture
- 43 ability to stand and movement
- 44 production of urine and faeces
- 45 hydration
- 46 thirst and appetite
- 47 level of consciousness
- 48 abnormal swelling or discolouration
- 49 bleeding
- 50 the need for veterinary attention/advice

**Transport animals:**

- 51 method
- 52 restraint
- 53 separation, if transporting multiple animals
- 54 hygiene and biosecurity

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55 ventilation and heat control

56 monitoring of stress

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### Glossary

#### **Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):**

It is illegal under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) for non-veterinary surgeons to practise veterinary surgery.

The Act defines Veterinary Surgery as:

- the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;
- the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
- the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and
- the performance of surgical operations on animals.

#### **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

#### **Appropriate person:**

- veterinary surgeon
- owner/keeper
- colleague



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**Developed by** Lantra

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**Version number** 1

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**Date Approved** January 2014

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**Indicative review date** January 2019

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**Validity** Current

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**Status** Original

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**Originating organisation** Lantra

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**Original URN** LANAnC32

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**Relevant occupations** Animal Care

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**Suite** Animal Care and Welfare

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**Keywords** animal; first aid