

LANAnC35 - SQA Unit Code HA7V 04

Advise on and place stray or unwanted animals in new home environments



Overview

This standard covers advising prospective keepers and placing stray or unwanted animals in new home environments. It reflects the need to assess and verify that prospective owners recognise and understand their duties and obligations as keepers of an animal, and that the facilities that they are able to offer are suitable for the animal.

It involves the provision of advice to prospective keepers relating to the likely needs, temperament and behaviour of the animals that they wish to provide a home for, as well as the care required by animals and the likely costs of keeping them.

It also includes the assessment of prospective keepers' homes to ensure that they are suitable for the placement of stray or unwanted animals.

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 those with responsibility for placing stray or unwanted animals in new home environments.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 maintain your own professional conduct and ethics and work within the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P3 identify the potential keeper's expectations and the care and facilities they can offer the animal
- P4 make recommendations regarding the choice of animal, which are tactful and clearly related to the **needs of the animal** and the care and facilities that the potential keeper can offer
- P5 give advice on the likely growth and behaviour patterns of a young animal
- P6 assess the animal's temperament and its likely reaction to **factors in the new environment** and communicate your assessment to the potential keeper
- P7 clearly explain the likely maintenance costs over an average lifetime
- P8 encourage potential keepers to ask questions, seek clarification and make comments, and offer and explain written information to reinforce advice
- P9 inform prospective keepers of any behavioural or medical conditions that the animal has that may affect the decision to proceed with the placement
- P10 clearly explain post-placement conditions, care and support services offered by the organisation
- P11 confirm the prospective keeper's understanding of advice about the animal and their intention to proceed
- P12 set criteria to assess the suitability of the new environment taking into account the welfare of the animal, its history and the interests of the potential keeper
- P13 note information relating to the new environment, the potential keeper and their lifestyle and use this information to inform decisions
- P14 record the results of the assessment and explain these results to the potential keeper
- P15 make post-placement checks to confirm that the animal has settled and that any conditions put on the placement have been met
- P16 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 your professional 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 the normal behaviour patterns, temperament and growth of animals
- K4 the **needs of the animal** when placing stray or unwanted animals in new home environments
- K5 how to estimate **maintenance costs** for an animal and the factors that should be included
- K6 how to adapt communication methods to meet the needs of individuals
- K7 the sources of information and specialist advice when placing stray or unwanted animals in a new environment
- K8 the likely reactions of animals to **factors in new environments**
- K9 why conditions may be placed on placement agreements
- K10 the support services offered by the organisation
- K11 the methods available for evaluating the suitability of environments
- K12 the facilities, care and attention required by different animals
- K13 appropriate records to be kept, the importance of confidentiality and the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998

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Scope/range

Needs of the animal:

- 1 living space and structures
- 2 exercise
- 3 company
- 4 food and water
- 5 training

Factors in the new home environment:

- 6 presence of other animals
- 7 presence of other people (adults and children)
- 8 access to exercise/recreation
- 9 living space and structures
- 10 care and facilities
- 11 security

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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

Maintenance costs could include:

- insurance
- food
- medical and care fees
- training
- accessories
- adaptations to living space and vehicles

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