

LANAnC54- SQA Unit Code HA8A 04

Assess the compatibility of people and animals to work together



Overview

This standard covers assessing the compatibility of people and animals to work together as one. This could be in relation to physical characteristics, capability, temperament and potential.

For this standard you will need to have developed your knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to assessing and training two bodies to work together.

All activities should be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation.

Users of the standard will need to be appropriately trained and ensure that practice applies scientifically robust information, humane standards and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

This standard is suitable for those with responsibility for assessing the compatibility of people and animals to work together.

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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, experience and relevant legislation
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and 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 business policies
- P4 assess practices in a scientifically robust manner to determine their suitability, efficacy and welfare implications
- P5 establish the purpose of the compatibility between individual person and the animal
- P6 obtain relevant information about the person and the animal to assist with the assessment of compatibility
- P7 prepare any resources necessary for the assessment
- P8 handle and interact with the animal in a humane manner that avoids creating behaviour giving rise to welfare concerns and allows observation and assessment to be carried out safely
- P9 carry out an assessment appropriate to the person and the animal, and the specific purpose for which they will be working together
- P10 identify the interrelated strengths and weaknesses of the person and the animal from the assessment
- P11 encourage the person and the animal to develop an effective relationship
- P12 make an assessment as to their compatibility
- P13 encourage the person to contribute to the assessment process
- P14 report the outcomes of the assessment to the individual person and others concerned
- P15 keep accurate and up-to-date records as required
- P16 seek professional advice when necessary and refer cases on when appropriate
- P17 plan, record, evaluate and reflect upon your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and work within the requirements of the relevant professional organisation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your professional and ethical responsibilities and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence, experience and relevant legislation
- K2 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare, and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice, and the legal limitations of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966)
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- K4 how to assess practices in a scientifically robust manner to determine their suitability, efficacy and welfare implications
- K5 the different factors to take into account when assessing the compatibility of people and animals to work together i.e. physical characteristics, capability, potential, temperament and how these interrelate between the individual and the animal and the purpose for which they are being trained
- K6 the importance of accurately identifying the characteristics of the person and the animal to meet the objectives of the training programme
- K7 sources of information that may enable a valid assessment to be made
- K8 the different methods of assessment that may be used in relation to the purpose of the training
- K9 the resources that may be used for the assessment and their correct methods of use
- K10 how to conduct the assessment to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the animal and the person and their interrelationship
- K11 the importance of using appropriate communication techniques
- K12 the importance of developing a positive relationship between person and animal
- K13 how people and animals learn
- K14 how to best communicate the results of the assessment back to those concerned in a constructive way
- K15 the appropriate records to be kept, the importance of confidentiality and the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998)
- K16 where to obtain professional advice and guidance and the role of professional bodies and associations
- K17 your professional responsibilities and the importance of Continuing

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Professional Development (CPD) to maintain professional competence

K18 the importance of appropriate insurance cover including professional indemnity

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Scope/range

Compatibility of the person and animal:

- 1 physical characteristics
- 2 capability
- 3 potential
- 4 temperament

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Glossary

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):

All forms of complementary therapy that involve acts or the practise of veterinary surgery must be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon, subject to any exemption in the Act. At the same time, it is incumbent on veterinary surgeons offering any complementary therapy to ensure that they are adequately trained in its application.

Behavioural treatment of animals is not restricted under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) unless it constitutes the practice of veterinary surgery.

There is no specific exemption order for animal behaviourism and therefore there is no formal jurisdiction to insist upon the involvement of a veterinary surgeon before animal behaviour work is carried out. In many cases, however, animal behaviourists will work on referrals from veterinary surgeons to ensure they are not accused of making a diagnosis of disease or injury (which is restricted to veterinary surgeon).

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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