Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Dog Training

Unit code: F3V4 34

Unit purpose: This Unit provides knowledge and understanding of how dogs learn and how this is applied to their training, the use of basic commands and methods used to correct common dog behavioural problems. Candidates will also develop knowledge of the basic training criteria of dogs for specialist functions and why specific dogs are selected for these.

On completion of the Unit, the candidate should be able to:

1   Explain the main learning theories and techniques used in dog training.
2   Describe the training programmes used in dog training and perform basic commands.
3   Evaluate techniques designed to overcome common dog behavioural problems.
4   Describe the criteria used in the selection of dogs for specialist functions.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial for the candidate to have completed the National Unit D7EM 11 *Introduction to Dog Training*, to have experience of working with dogs and to have undertaken study of the Higher National Unit: *Animal Behaviour*.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: Outcome 1 could be assessed using structured questions, and must be conducted under closed-book, supervised conditions. Outcome 2 could be assessed using a practical observation checklist assessment and a short answer written paper consisting of structured questions which must be conducted under closed-book, supervised conditions. Outcome 3 could be assessed by a case study assignment, with Outcome 4 assessed by an assignment.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Dog Training

Unit code: F3V4 34

Outcome 1

Explain the main learning theories and techniques used in dog training

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦ Learning Theories
♦ Techniques
♦ Advantages and disadvantages of Punishment
♦ Reinforcements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

♦ explain the application of learning theories in the training of dogs. The explanation must include classical, instrumental/operant theories.
♦ describe the developmental processes of habituation, socialisation and punishment techniques in relation to dog training.
♦ explain one advantage and one disadvantage of the use of punishment in dog training, for at least three different situations.
♦ explain the use of positive and negative reinforcements in at least three different situations.

Assessment must be unseen and conducted under closed-book, supervised conditions.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome could be an extended response using structured questions that include stimulus material or situations in which the theories and techniques may be applied.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dog Training

Outcome 2

Describe the training programmes used in dog training and perform basic commands

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦ Training programmes
♦ Basic lead work training
♦ Basic commands; stand; sit; down; stay; recall

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

♦ describe at least one training programme for each of the following: house training, toilet training and crate training. Descriptions must include reference to the theories and techniques explained in Outcome 1.
♦ describe and perform at least one method used to train 'basic lead work.'
♦ describe the process used to achieve the basic commands of stand, sit, down, stay and recall. The description must include reference to the theories and techniques explained in Outcome 1.
♦ perform basic commands of stand, sit, down, stay and recall on at least three separate occasions.

Assessment must be conducted under closed-book, supervised conditions. Assessment of the fourth ER must include practical handling, using dogs.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed using a combination of short answer questions and practical observation.

For the practical aspect, observation checklists could be developed to ensure the Evidence Requirements are met.

A short answer paper consisting of structured questions could be used to assess the other Evidence Requirements.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dog Training

Outcome 3

Evaluate techniques designed to overcome common dog behavioural problems

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦ Common dog behavioural problems
♦ Causation
♦ Resolution methods
♦ Training tools

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

♦ evaluate the cause of a minimum of four common dog behavioural problems. The evaluation must include excessive barking, jumping up, separation anxiety and fears or phobias.
♦ describe at least two behaviours shown when separation anxiety occurs in a dog.
♦ evaluate three reasons that may cause a dog to show fearful or phobic behaviour. The evaluation must include as a minimum, the dog breed, age, background and socialisation development.
♦ evaluate methods used in resolving a minimum of three common problem behaviours in dogs. The evaluation must include at least three methods: two methods from the following: training programmes, bark collars and sensors, alternative rewarding, ignoring behaviours, reassurance; and one method using training tools such as sprays, training discs, clicker, training stick or training horn.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of this Outcome could be assessed by a case study assignment. The response could be presented as a report (recommended minimum 1,500 words or equivalent).

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dog Training

Outcome 4

Describe the criteria used in the selection of dogs for specialist functions

Knowledge and/or Skills

♦ Range of specialist functions
♦ Physical characteristics
♦ Behavioural characteristics

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that for one competition function and two working specialist functions, they can:

♦ describe the physical characteristics of dogs. Descriptions must include size, strength, endurance, speed and how these physical characteristics are appropriate to the specialist function.
♦ describe the behavioural characteristics of dogs. Descriptions must include temperament, intelligence, instinct and how these behavioural characteristics are appropriate to the specialist function.

Candidates must choose different functions for each Evidence Requirement ie a minimum of six functions must be described to meet the standard (three per ER).

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment could be by an assignment covering three specialist functions, one from competition and two from working, covering each Evidence Requirement. Candidates could be given a list of specialist functions to choose from in their assignment.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F3V4 34

Unit title: Dog Training

Superclass category: SP

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Version	Description of change	Date
02	Prior Verified Assessment Material now available on the secure site.	**02/02/21**

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dog Training

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit is intended for candidates who are studying towards an HNC/HND in Animal Care.

Additional information relating to each Outcome is given below:

1   This Outcome should explain the learning theories, instrumental/operant and classical, relating to how dogs learn and how these apply to dog training. The development of habituation and socialisation techniques should be discussed. The use of positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement and punishment techniques should be discussed and the advantages and disadvantages of each method understood. The importance of humane methods in dog training could be emphasised.

2   Various training programmes, such as the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme award, could be demonstrated and the basic steps involved in achieving a well trained dog. The importance of repetition and simple instructions could be emphasised. Candidates will be expected to perform the basic commands of stand, sit, down, stay, recall so they should have access to suitably trained dogs for this. This could be supported by the use of visual aid materials and practical session. Visits to training establishments and talks by established dog trainers will enhance the knowledge.

3   This Outcome covers how and why a dog may develop one of the common behavioural problems, such as excessive barking, jumping up, separation anxiety, fears, phobias. For each behavioural problem the appropriate method of resolving it should be explained, taking into account the appropriate training technique, which may include training, bark collars/sensors, alternative rewarding, ignoring behaviours, reassurance, training tools such as whistle, horn, training stick, clicker training. This information could be supported by the use of different dog trainer methods via videos, books, or visits to established dog trainers, so that candidates understand how to resolve behavioural problems using appropriate techniques.

4   Common specialist functions of dogs should be explained; competition includes dogs used for racing, herding, gundogs, show, agility, flyball. Working includes; police, military, customs and excise, assistance dogs, sheepdogs and rescue dogs. Candidates will need to understand the suitability and behavioural characteristics of dogs required for these specialist functions; including size, strength, endurance and speed, temperament, intelligence and instinct.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Dog Training

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award within the HNC/HND Animal Care framework. The delivery of this Unit **must** include practical handling, using dogs.

As well as lectures and class discussion/debate it is recommended that candidates have visits to and/or presentations from experts in the field of dog training. The use of photographs, videos and books will also help inform/reinforce candidates' range of knowledge.

Lectures should be supported by the use of different dog trainer methods; this could take the form of videos, books, or visits to established dog trainers.

Lecture sessions on the suitability of dogs and their behavioural characteristics for these specialist functions should be explained, these lectures should cover temperament, intelligence and instinct.

The first Outcome could be assessed using structured questions under closed-book, supervised conditions. The second Outcome could be assessed using a practical observation checklist and a short answer paper consisting of structured questions under supervised conditions. The third Outcome could be assessed by a case study assignment. The fourth Outcome could be assessed by way of an assignment covering six specialist functions, three of which are based on the physical characteristics of dogs and three of which reflect the behavioural characteristics of dogs.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication and Problem Solving at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The written component of the Core Skill of *Communication* may be developed by candidates' collection of information during dog training visits and responses to the proposed assignments for Outcomes 3 and 4. The oral component of *Communication* may be developed through relevant questioning of dog trainers and owners, and through the practical demonstrations with dogs, and in response to the proposed case study assignment for Outcome 3. Candidates' responses could be given in the form of an oral presentation.

Candidates will also gather information from other sources such as books, other publications, video/DVD and the internet and will be required to select the appropriate method for the training of dogs. The gathering and presentation of this information may also help develop the Core Skill of *Communication*.

Candidates will be required to research appropriate dog training methods and the application of these in particular problem settings. The stimulus material should provide candidates with the opportunity to develop problem solving skills as they apply their Knowledge and/or Skills in order to resolve a number of behavioural problems in dogs. The practical component requires candidates to perform basic training commands and may, depending on the situation presented, also present the opportunity to develop problem solving skills at SCQF level 5.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Dog Training

Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment, and quality assurance. Centres may have to make special arrangements for the practical elements contained within the Unit which may make delivery and assessment difficult.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (**www.sqa.org.uk**).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Dog Training

This Unit will provide you with knowledge and understanding of how dogs learn and how this is applied to their training. The Unit has been designed as part of the Animal Care HNC/HND, but may also be of interest to you if you have a particular interest in dog training and/or behaviour.

On achievement of this Unit you will understand and be able to use methods and techniques designed to correct common behavioural problems in dogs, and be able to demonstrate the use of basic commands. You will also develop knowledge of the basic training criteria of dogs for specialist purposes and why specific dogs are selected for specific purposes.

The Unit consists of four Outcomes.

The first Outcome will enable you to become familiar with theories relating to how dogs learn and how you can apply these to dog training. You will understand when it is appropriate to use positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement and punishment techniques.

The second Outcome will enable you to demonstrate the basic training commands with a suitably trained dog. It will also give you the basic knowledge of how to achieve this.

The third Outcome will help you to look at common behavioural problems and how these problems could be resolved. You will be looking at different methods used by different experts in this field. It will help you to decide which method is best to use and when, whilst you will have knowledge of other methods to use, if required. You will be encouraged to research established dog trainers by reading about their methods, information from websites and by watching videos etc.

The fourth Outcome will look at how dogs are used for specific tasks. You will be able to assess a dog's suitability for specialist functions based on physical and behavioural characteristics, including strength, size, agility, temperament, intelligence and instinct.

Assessment may include a number of approaches including a closed-book assessment, case study and reports. You will need to perform the basic commands of stand, sit, down, stay and recall using a suitably trained dog on three separate occasions.

Activities and assessment undertaken during this Unit may provide opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5.