



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures

**Unit code:** H0YL 34

**Superclass:** SN

**Publication date:** March 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop knowledge and understanding of possible veterinary emergencies and acceptable first aid strategies within the remit of veterinary nurses and other support staff. It is intended for candidates wishing to work in the veterinary nursing field or similar work environments.

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

- 1 Explain the principles of first aid in veterinary nursing.
- 2 Describe emergency situations and first aid procedures for small animals.
- 3 Describe specialised emergency situations and first aid procedures for small animals.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Candidates should have good animal handling skills and a good general knowledge of the species that are commonly encountered in a veterinary environment.

### Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit 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.*

## **General information (cont)**

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at 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. It is included in the framework of the HNC/D in Veterinary Nursing.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

### Outcome 1

Explain the principles of first aid in veterinary nursing.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Legal position of the veterinary nurse and lay staff in the provision of first aid to companion animals.
- ◆ Aims of first aid treatment.
- ◆ ABC of first aid and casualty assessment.
- ◆ Restraint of injured companion animals.
- ◆ Managing unexpected urgent casualties.
- ◆ Information to be given to a veterinary surgeon regarding a treated first aid casualty.
- ◆ Special requirements of injured small companion animals.
- ◆ Specialised handling and transportation techniques for injured patients.

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the legal positions of qualified and unqualified staff when dealing with first aid emergencies
- ◆ describe the aims and priorities of first aid
- ◆ describe restraint and transportation procedures for two species commonly treated in veterinary practices
- ◆ explain what information should be given to a veterinary surgeon regarding a treated first aid casualty.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures

### Outcome 2

Describe emergency situations and first aid procedures for small animals.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Situations requiring first aid treatment including shock, haemorrhage, wounds, scalds, burns, stings, fractures, dislocations, minor allergic responses.
- ◆ Basic wound care including application of dressings and bandages.
- ◆ Emergencies related to the abdomen and thorax.
- ◆ Emergencies affecting eyes, ears and nose.
- ◆ Hypothermia and hyperthermia.
- ◆ Prioritise patients requiring first aid.
- ◆ Prepare for the admission of an emergency case.
- ◆ Observation of patients.
- ◆ Principles of nursing first aid patients.

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify and prioritise five first aid emergencies
- ◆ describe the first aid procedures for five emergency situations.

### Outcome 3

Describe specialised emergency situations and first aid procedures for small animals.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Collapse due to metabolic emergencies, convulsions and anaphylaxis
- ◆ Unconsciousness and death
- ◆ Obstetrical emergencies
- ◆ Neonatal emergencies
- ◆ Gastric dilation
- ◆ Poisoning
- ◆ Principles of emergency resuscitation
- ◆ Contents and maintenance of an emergency 'crash box'.

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the first aid procedures for five specialised first aid situations.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:     Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures**

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**

This Unit is intended for candidates who are studying towards the HNC/D in Veterinary Nursing. The teaching and learning should be delivered in this context. The Unit will also be useful for animal care professionals or enthusiasts who wish to increase their knowledge of small animal first aid procedures.

The Unit relates specifically to the underpinning knowledge and skills required for handling animal first aid cases according to current legislation and in a way that is conducive to the health and well-being of patients, whatever their species.

Current health and safety legislation must be referred to throughout the Unit.

Additional information relating to each Outcome is given below.

#### **Outcome 1**

The role of the veterinary nurse and other lay staff in the veterinary practice in relation to first aid situations should be covered, with particular emphasis on legislation such as the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and its amendments. Delivery should include the aims of first aid and how to prioritise treatment in order to preserve life, prevent suffering and prevent any condition from worsening. While learning the ABC of first aid (considering safety, Airway, Breathing and Circulation), candidates must also understand when it is necessary to call a veterinary surgeon — either because of telephone contact from a client or because an unexpected emergency has arrived at the surgery. Consideration should be given to the care, handling and transportation requirements of small animal companion species.

#### **Outcome 2**

This Outcome covers the signs and first aid treatment of the full range of conditions specified. Candidates should acquire a level of understanding that enables them to competently describe airway, respiration, pulse, colour of mucous membranes, temperature, haemorrhage, level of consciousness, loss of function and injuries. Basic wound care and application of dressings and bandages should be included. The theory of assessing an animal's condition and urgent needs, applying treatment (within legal guidelines), restraining and transporting should all be covered.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures

### Outcome 3

In this Outcome, the candidate should develop an understanding that enables her/him to deal with specialised emergencies until a veterinary surgeon arrives. Although some of the conditions in Outcome 2 could become life threatening, they are perhaps less so than those stated for this Outcome and are less likely to require a veterinary surgeon's presence in the first instance. This Outcome is therefore related to the conditions and skills required in dealing with first aid situations for which the veterinary nurse must become particularly skilled in identifying and providing such emergency treatment.

### Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

This Unit has been devised with the intention that it forms part of the core framework of the HNC/D in Veterinary Nursing and should be delivered with that in mind.

### Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

Centres should feel free to adopt an appropriate assessment strategy provided that it meets the specifications given in the Statement of Standards for this Unit.

### Assessment Guidelines

#### Outcome 1

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

#### Outcome 2

The assessment of knowledge for this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

#### Outcome 3

The assessment of knowledge for this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 1 and 2. This could be conducted as an holistic closed-book written test consisting of scenario-based and structured questions undertaken in controlled conditions and lasting two hours.

### Online and Distance Learning

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice, please refer to the SQA guide: *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at level 5 in this Unit although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

### Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for candidates

**Unit title:** Veterinary Nursing: First Aid Procedures

This Unit is designed to provide knowledge and understanding of first aid situations and procedures in a range of small animal species and should help you gain confidence in dealing with such emergency situations in the workplace. The Unit covers a range of conditions varying from the first aid treatment of minor wounds to much more serious conditions such as loss of consciousness.

The content of the Unit is organised into three Outcomes, as follows:

- ◆ explaining the principles of first aid in veterinary nursing
- ◆ describing emergency situations and first aid procedures for small animals
- ◆ describing specialised emergency situations and first aid procedures for small animals.

There is one written assessment for this Unit in which you will need to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the subject. The assessment will consist of a two-hour closed-book paper.

This Unit is included in the framework for the HND in Veterinary Nursing.