



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Unit code: H100 33

Superclass: SN

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to encourage candidates to develop and apply the skills required to become a competent veterinary nurse, equipped to deal with a variety of individual patient needs, including environmental, psychological and physical requirements, dependent on species, condition and life-stage requirements. In addition, candidates will develop their communication skills enabling them to work effectively within the veterinary team and to interact with clients in a clinical setting.

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

- 1 Perform operational tasks within the veterinary practice placement, taking account of health and safety.
- 2 Demonstrate effective communication with clients during routine veterinary practice procedures.
- 3 Identify anatomical landmarks and demonstrate effective handling and husbandry skills for cats, dogs, exotics and horses, taking account of health and safety.
- 4 Assess patient health, interpret care plans and perform practical nursing care tasks.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

It would be beneficial for candidates to have undertaken some of the SCQF level 7 Units in the HND Veterinary Nursing framework and to have had some prior experience of working in a veterinary practice before undertaking this Unit.

General information (cont)

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 6: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**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.*

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* at level 5 and *Working with Others* 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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Unit code: H100 33

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

Perform operational tasks within the veterinary practice placement, taking account of health and safety.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Operational tasks
 - handle equipment and materials
 - maintain equipment
 - store equipment and materials
 - maintain stock
 - order supplies
 - dispose of stock
 - report damage or faults
 - select and constitute detergents and disinfectants
 - clean practice facilities
 - maintain hygiene in examination rooms
 - handle and dispose of biological materials
 - hand hygiene
 - interpret and prepare prescriptions
 - handle medicines
 - dispense medicines
 - label medicines
 - maintain controlled drugs records
 - dispose of pharmaceuticals
- ◆ Health and safety
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HASAWA)
 - Manual Handling Regulations
 - Risk Assessment
 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ handle, maintain and store equipment and materials in a veterinary practice taking account of HASAWA and the Manual Handling Regulations
- ◆ order, maintain and dispose of veterinary stock
- ◆ identify and report damage or faults in veterinary stock
- ◆ select and use appropriate chemicals to clean and maintain hygiene in veterinary facilities taking account of COSHH Regulations
- ◆ handle and dispose of biological and pharmaceutical waste materials
- ◆ perform effective hand hygiene
- ◆ interpret and prepare veterinary prescriptions by demonstrating correct handling, dispensing and labelling procedures
- ◆ maintain schedule 2 drug records
- ◆ complete a risk assessment for one area of the practice and instigate appropriate actions.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate effective communication with clients during routine veterinary practice procedures.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Effective communication
 - focus
 - approach
 - attitude
 - personal appearance
- ◆ Veterinary practice procedures
 - make appointments for consultations
 - make appointments for surgical procedures
 - register clients
 - register patients
 - process clients on arrival and provide estimates of cost
 - discharge patients and take and record payments
 - maintain client records and documents
 - telephone procedures
 - write clinical records
 - demonstrate routes of drug administration
 - demonstrate drug administration techniques
 - advise clients how to store and dispose of medication.
 - update clients with respect to patient progress

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ communicate effectively while performing the following procedures
 - making appointments for consultations and surgical procedures both face-to-face and by telephone
 - registering new clients and their animals both face to face and by telephone
 - processing clients on arrival and departure including the provision of estimates and the taking and recording of payments
 - maintaining client records and documents
 - preparing clear written clinical records
 - demonstrating routes of drug administration and drug administration techniques
 - advising clients how to store and dispose of medication
 - advising clients regarding their animal's progress

Outcome 3

Identify anatomical landmarks and demonstrate effective handling and husbandry skills for cats, dogs, exotics and horses, taking account of health and safety.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Anatomical landmarks
 - approach
 - catch
 - handle
 - hold
 - restrain
 - move
- ◆ Animal husbandry
 - clean accommodation
 - maintain accommodation
 - basic grooming
 - equine hoof care

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify the position of anatomical landmarks in a range of intact animals
- ◆ approach, catch, handle and restrain a range of animals
- ◆ approach, catch, hold and move a range of animals
- ◆ clean and maintain accommodation for a range of animals
- ◆ groom a range of animals
- ◆ perform hoof care in horses

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Outcome 4

Assess patient health, interpret care plans and perform practical nursing care tasks.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Patient health status
 - condition and demeanour
 - temperature, pulse and respiration
 - level of consciousness
 - excretion
 - signs of pain and anxiety
 - condition of wounds
- ◆ Care plans
 - peri-operative
 - medical
- ◆ Nursing care
 - accommodation
 - grooming
 - bathing
 - food and fluids
 - fluid therapy
 - wound dressings
 - bandages
 - patient interference
 - medication
 - dispose of waste
 - recording keeping
 - reflection.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ assess the health status of patients with a range of peri-operative and medical conditions
- ◆ prepare peri-operative and medical care plans
- ◆ provide the full range of nursing care for patients with peri-operative and medical needs
- ◆ reflect on your nursing care skills and plan your future personal development.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to assist candidates to gain a range of basic practical skills that may be required by a veterinary nurse when working in practice. In particular, it focuses on routine day-to-day tasks and nursing skills.

Although this Unit may be taken on a stand-alone basis by candidates in employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills, it is primarily intended for candidates who are studying towards the HND in Veterinary Nursing and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 focuses on the day-to-day operational requirements of a veterinary practice including safe working, stock control, infection control and the supply of medicines. Candidates should be able to follow practice procedures and apply safe working practices when performing all tasks within the veterinary practice environment. Stock control should involve correct ordering, storage, maintenance and disposal of a range of items including sterile supplies, medicines and consumables. Infection control and maintenance of good hygiene is essential and candidates must be able to select appropriate chemicals, follow manufacturers' instructions for their use and clean practice facilities effectively. Personal hygiene is integral to infection control and candidates should demonstrate their understanding of this by dressing appropriately in practice, performing effective hand hygiene and wearing PPE as necessary.

The supply of medicines should take account of the need for candidates to interpret and prepare prescriptions correctly. This should include the safe handling, dispensing, labelling and disposal of medicines and include the need to correctly record transactions involving Schedule 2 drugs.

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 offers candidates the opportunity to develop their communication skills while performing routine veterinary practice procedures. Candidates should develop reception skills by being involved in the registration of clients and patients and making a range of appointments through a variety of means including both face-to-face and by telephone. In addition to this they should be able to process clients on arrival, provide estimates of treatment costs and process payments correctly. Further opportunities to develop communication skills will also arise during the provision of medications to clients, as candidates will be required to demonstrate the correct routes and techniques of drug administration and give advice about the correct storage and disposal of medicines. Throughout this Outcome candidates will be expected to exhibit client-focused behaviour taking into account personal appearance and attitude.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Outcome 3

Outcome 3 develops the candidate's ability to identify anatomical landmarks on live animals and to develop handling, health and husbandry techniques in a range of species including dogs, cats, exotics, and horses. Exotic species in this instance should include rabbits, birds, rodents and reptiles. Candidates should be able to approach, catch, handle, hold, restrain and move animals effectively, with particular emphasis being placed on the need to restrain animals for veterinary examinations. In relation to horses, candidates should be able to apply head collars and be able to lead effectively. Cleaning and maintenance of accommodation should cover the whole species range including mucking out of stables. Welfare techniques should include basic grooming in all species with the specific inclusion of equine hoof care.

Outcome 4

Outcome 4 focuses on the development of practical nursing care skills for hospitalised animals and should include all the basics of patient care. Candidates should be able to prepare and maintain hospital accommodation taking into account varying patient needs in relation to bedding or substrates and carry out nursing care for a range of patients suffering from both medical and surgical conditions. Nursing care should include observation, assessment and recording of vital functions (including temperature, pulse, respiration and mucous membrane colour), levels of consciousness (including recovery from anaesthesia), excretions (urine, faeces, vomitus or gastric reflux) and signs of pain and/or anxiety. Provision of nutritional support should cover a range of species with differing needs and involve both hand and assisted feeding techniques. Candidates must be able to administer oral rehydration solutions, assemble equipment for fluid therapy, monitor the administration of fluids and identify issues with flow rates or catheter sites if these arise. Wound care should be limited to the aseptic administration of simple wound dressings and bandages, prevention of patient interference with bandages and the recognition of wound condition. In relation to medication, candidates should be able to interpret prescriptions and prepare/reconstitute medicines for administration. Administration by the candidate at this stage should include oral, rectal, topical and parenteral routes (limited to subcutaneous and intramuscular access). Throughout this Outcome candidates must be developing their skills in relation to the interpretation and delivery of prescribed nursing care according to planned patient care in both peri-operative and medical nursing situations. Candidates must also be able to maintain records clearly and accurately and dispose of all waste correctly.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Although this Unit may be taken on a stand-alone basis by candidates in employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills, it is primarily intended for candidates who are studying towards the HND in Veterinary Nursing, and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

Delivery of this Unit should take place in the veterinary practice which is the candidate's work placement. The Unit involves the development of a range of practical skills under the guidance of a Clinical Coach. The Clinical Coach will monitor progress by mentoring, observing and authenticating the candidate's performance.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit could be assessed holistically.

An RCVS approved electronic portfolio, the Nursing Progress Log (NPL), will be used to record progress and achievement of the required competencies. Achievement of this Unit will be based on the successful completion of VN1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the NPL skills list.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 details of which are given under Outcome 4.

Outcome 2

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1, 3 and 4 details of which are given under Outcome 4.

Outcome 3

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 details of which are given under Outcome 4.

Outcome 4

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 and all relate to performance evidence. A Nursing Progress Log (NPL) of the competencies being demonstrated within the candidate's placement under the guidance of a Clinical Coach (CC) could be used to gather evidence. Achievement will be based on the successful completion of VN1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the NPL skills list.

Online and Distance Learning

Completion of this Unit requires the candidate to be working in a veterinary practice.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* at level 5 and *Working with Others* at level 5 in this Unit. Candidates will be required to communicate by a variety of means with a range of people on a daily basis. This will include members of the public, veterinary practice staff and others allied to the industry as the Unit calls for involvement in reception routines and other operational tasks like ordering stock which will bring them into contact with external business personnel. The elements of working with others are integral to the achievement of the Unit as candidates are expected to participate in all operational activities and will be under the supervision of qualified practice staff.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

This Unit forms part of the HNC/D Veterinary Nursing.

This Unit is designed to encourage you to develop and apply the skills required to become a competent veterinary nurse, and equip you to deal with a variety of individual patient needs, including environmental, psychological and physical requirements, dependent on species, condition and life-stage requirements. In addition to this you will develop your communication skills which will enable you to work effectively within the veterinary team and to interact with clients in a clinical setting.

It would be beneficial for you to have undertaken some of the SCQF Level 7 Units in the HND Veterinary Nursing framework and to have had some prior experience of working in a veterinary practice before undertaking this Unit.

This Unit consists of four Outcomes:

Outcome 1

This Outcome is designed to develop your ability to participate in the day-to-day operational requirements of practice. It focuses on the safe handling, maintenance and storage of veterinary practice materials and equipment. Stock control procedures and operations together with the handling and supply of medicinal products will all be included.

Outcome 2

Effective communication is the focus of this Outcome, where you will be expected to develop your abilities by participating in routine reception work with other veterinary staff. This will involve dealing with clients both on the telephone and in the practice and will require you to make appointments, update owners regarding their animals, take payments and provide advice about the administration of medicines.

Outcome 3

This Outcome involves working with animals in a safe manner, taking account of their specific needs in relation to handling and husbandry procedures. You will be required to catch, hold, handle and restrain a range of species including dogs, cats, horses and exotics. You will also be involved in the maintenance of accommodation for these animals and in their grooming.

General information for candidates (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Supervised Practice 1

Outcome 4

This Outcome focuses on the assessment of patient care, interpretation of care plans and the provision of practical nursing care to a range of animals with medical or peri-operative needs. You will be introduced to, and encouraged to develop, your skills in the observation and assessment of patient condition, provision of food and fluids, wound care, medication and maintenance of patient welfare.

You will also be encouraged to reflect on your performance and identify strategies to develop your competency.

Assessment

In order to complete this Unit successfully you will be assessed on your practical skills and required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance. Evidence of this will be gathered through the successful completion of all four Outcomes, and the completion of an electronic portfolio charting the skills you have participated in and the experience you have gathered while in the practice placement under the guidance of a Clinical Coach. Achievement will be based on the successful completion of VN1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the NPL skills list.