

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction
(Intermediate 1)

CODE DV0D 10

COURSE

SUMMARY

This Unit is intended to allow candidates the opportunity to gain competence in the provision of food and water to a variety of small animals.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Store, select and prepare food for small animals.
- 2 Provide food for small animals.
- 3 Provide water for small animals.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

There are no formal entry requirements for this Unit; entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Intermediate 1 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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*

Administrative Information

Superclass: SP

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit .

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction (Intermediate 1)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Store, select and prepare food for small animals

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify a range of foodstuffs for small animals.
- (b) Describe appropriate storage for a range of foodstuffs.
- (c) Prepare food for small animals appropriately and in directed quantities.
- (d) Prepare food hygienically and safely.

OUTCOME 2

Provide food for small animals

Performance Criteria

- (a) Provide food by instructed method and timing.
- (b) Present food to ensure fair opportunity for all individuals.
- (c) Provide food in a manner which ensures the safety of the provider and the small animals.
- (d) Demonstrate knowledge of techniques for feeding aggressive or nervous animals.

OUTCOME 3

Provide water for small animals

Performance Criteria

- (a) Provide water in a system appropriate for species and individuals.
- (b) Provide supplements to water as directed.
- (c) Maintain a hygienic and adequate water supply.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

Satisfactory achievement of this outcome will be based on the candidate satisfying the requirements of the performance evidence checklist.

Performance evidence to identify at least five different foodstuffs and describe appropriate storage for each.

Performance evidence of correct and safe preparation techniques for at least three different foods. At least one poor quality food must be identified.

Performance evidence of accurate weighing of one type of food.

Outcome 2

Satisfactory achievement of this outcome will be based on the candidate satisfying the requirements of the performance evidence checklist.

Performance evidence to provide food for at least three species of animal at an appropriate frequency and using a safe and fair method of presentation. At least one of the species should be fed in a group. Oral questioning on the feeding of aggressive or nervous small animals.

Outcome 3

Satisfactory achievement of this Outcome will be based on the candidate satisfying the requirements of the performance evidence checklist.

Oral evidence to identify suitable methods of water presentation for 3 different species. Performance evidence to show maintenance of adequate and hygienic supply of water to a group of small animals.

Performance evidence of accurate addition of water supplement in at least one species (simulation is acceptable).

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction (Intermediate 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 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit is intended to allow candidates the opportunity to gain competence in the provision of food and water to a variety of small animal species. No understanding of the nutritional requirements of small animals is expected at this level. Candidates should be able to select foodstuffs in good condition and prepare them hygienically and in directed quantities.

In this Unit the term “small animals” refers to dogs; cats; rabbits; guinea pigs; ferrets and small rodents.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

Candidates should be able to identify and distinguish between types of foodstuffs for small animals. Types of foodstuff would include frozen; dried; fresh; canned; meat; vegetables; hay and supplements. All foodstuffs should be stored in appropriate containers and in a suitable environment. They should be able to prepare selected foodstuffs hygienically and in directed quantities. Types of preparation would include chopping; defrosting; cleaning; soaking and quality checking. Use of scales for accurate measurement is recommended. Instructions on packaged foods should be followed accurately. Poor quality foods which could be harmful to the animal (ie rotten or spoiled food) should be recognised and reported. Food supplements should be prepared in accordance with instructions with particular emphasis on correct quantities. Maintenance of utensils and other feeding equipment must be hygienic.

Outcome 2

Candidates should be able to supply foods to individuals and groups of small animals at directed times and using a suitable method (scatter, container, browse). All small animals in groups must be given an opportunity to eat a suitable ration. Students should be encouraged to observe group feeding situations to identify bullying or insufficient feeding space etc. Candidates should be aware of the possible use of foods as tools for environmental enrichment in some species, although a detailed knowledge of the theories behind these techniques is not required at this level.

Candidates should also be made aware of techniques to avoid potential injury whilst feeding aggressive and competitive small animals.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

Candidates must be made aware of the vital importance of providing a continuous supply of water to small animals. They should be encouraged to use appropriate system (container, nipple feeders, automatic feeders) to ensure this and minimise spillages etc. Adequate water points must be available in group situations. Water supplements must be added at the correct concentration and candidates should be aware of restricting these only to small animals which require them. Hygiene must be maintained and the importance of maintaining fresh supplies emphasised.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate could be presented with a practical exercise to identify different types of animal feeds and be required to store the foods appropriately to maintain their quality. The candidate could then be asked to weigh and prepare foods for feeding to three different species following instructions on diet sheet or food labels to establish appropriate quantities. At least one food could be presented in a condition for the candidate to identify as unsuitable for feeding. Safety and hygiene could be assessed throughout the preparation process.

Outcome 2

The candidate could be presented with a practical exercise to provide food to at least one group and two single small animals. Presentation methods should be appropriate for the species and varied between species. Candidates should be encouraged to observe feeding behaviour and report problems. The exercises should be carried out with due regard for safety of the small animals and handler. Oral questioning could be used to establish how the routine would be varied in the event of provision to an aggressive or nervous animal.

Outcome 3

The candidate could be presented with a practical exercise to be responsible for the provision of adequate and hygienic water supplies to a group of small animals. Oral questioning could be used to establish alternative methods of water provision for two other species.

The candidate could be presented with a practical exercise on the preparation and addition of a water supplement in suitable concentration. This exercise could be done as a simulation to assess the accuracy of preparation.

CANDIDATES WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

This Unit Specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. 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. For information on these, please refer to the document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (SQA, 2004).