



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog Grooming (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6SX 11

SUMMARY

The Unit is suitable for candidates who are interested in the care and grooming of dogs. It provides candidates with the knowledge and skills required for dog grooming.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Describe the requirements for different dog breeds for grooming depending on coat type.
- 2 Prepare dogs for grooming and apply grooming techniques.
- 3 Perform routine tasks to maintain the dog's comfort and health.
- 4 Monitor and maintain the cleanliness of the working environment.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at SCQF level 5 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*).

**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

Publication date: May 2009

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF Level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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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 SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Describe the requirements for different dog breeds for grooming depending on coat type.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The identification of different dog breeds by breed and coat type is correct.
- (b) The description of the care needed for different coat types is correct.
- (c) The equipment required to achieve the appropriate style for the breed of dog is correct.
- (d) The description of the basic methods of grooming for different dog breeds commonly groomed is correct.

OUTCOME 2

Prepare dogs for grooming and apply grooming techniques.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Techniques used to remove knots and tangles and excess or dead hair prior to bathing are appropriate.
- (b) Techniques for bathing and cleaning the dog's coat and selecting appropriate products are correct.
- (c) Techniques for drying dogs are correct.

OUTCOME 3

Perform routine tasks to maintain the dog's comfort and health.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The removal of excess hair is carried out correctly.
- (b) Basic hygiene tasks are correctly performed and maintain dog's comfort and health.

OUTCOME 4

Monitor and maintain the cleanliness of the working environment.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The identification of potential hazards in the grooming environment is correct.
- (b) The procedures to avoid them are correct.
- (c) The cleaning of the work environment is correct.
- (d) The cleaning of grooming equipment which has been used is appropriate.
- (e) Disposal of waste is appropriate.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog Grooming (SCQF level 5)

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and performance evidence, supplemented with an assessor observation checklist is required to demonstrate that candidates have met the requirements of all Outcomes and Performance Criteria (PC).

All relevant operational procedures undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current legislation, regulations, codes of practice and manufacturers' recommendations where appropriate.

Outcome 1

The candidate must know three examples of each.

Written/oral evidence of coat types. The candidate must recognise three breeds for each coat type.

Written/oral evidence of knowledge of equipment, eg brushes, combs, undercoat rakes, matt breakers, dryers, scissors, nail clippers.

Written/oral evidence of the basic methods of grooming. The candidate must identify three dog breeds and the methods used to groom them.

Outcome 2

Written/oral evidence of why the coat type and style to be achieved affect the methods of preparing coats and equipment used.

Written/oral evidence of the correct selection and techniques for equipment used for removing knots, tangles and dead hair.

Written/oral evidence of the correct way to prepare techniques for equipment used for removing matting.

Performance evidence for preparing the coats of five different dogs prior to grooming. This should include:

- (i) at least three coat types.
- (ii) the use of shampoos/conditioner appropriate to each of the three coat types.

Written/oral evidence of the styles to be achieved for different breeds.

Outcome 3

Performance evidence of the procedures used to remove excess hair from different areas of the dog.

Performance evidence of the basic hygiene tasks needed to maintain a dog's comfort and health. The candidate should be able to carry out three of the tasks at (b) under supervision.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog Grooming (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 4

Written/oral evidence of candidate's knowledge of suitable cleaning procedures for the work environment.

Written/oral evidence to cover all types of grooming equipment.

Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates.

When using Performance Evidence, assessor observation checklists and other assessment records should be maintained and kept up to date to keep track of candidate progress and to provide evidence for internal and external verification purposes.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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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 is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 5, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following Lantra, Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standard (NOS) Units:

- (AC1) Assist with the movement and handling of animals
- (AC3) Maintain the cleanliness of the working environment
- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (AC29) Carry out styling and finishing for dogs

On completion of this Unit the candidate will be able to monitor and maintain safety and cleanliness in the working environment, describe different dog breeds and their grooming needs, carry out routine health tasks associated with grooming and prepare dogs for grooming.

Part of the skills for this Unit must be achieved by the handling and grooming of dogs. Access to appropriate dogs must be available.

Physical resources which would be required to deliver this Unit:

- ◆ Grooming facilities including tables, linked interval positioning (LIP) system, bathe/shower Unit, driers, cages, scissors, brushes, clippers and a range of blades, towels, protective clothing, muzzles etc.
- ◆ A range of suitable dogs.
- ◆ Photographs of individual breeds appropriately groomed and clipped.

The Unit aims to ensure that the candidate is competent to brush out, bath, dry and groom a dog. It is not designed to equip a candidate to become a professional groomer.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog Grooming (SCQF level 5)

Corresponding to Outcomes:

Outcome 1

The candidates should know the coat types of different breeds and the grooming care individual breeds and coat types require.

Outcome 2

The candidates should be able to prepare a dog for bathing including reporting the discovery of abnormal conditions such as lumps, lesions or parasites. Candidates must bathe and dry dogs appropriately. When candidates progress on to grooming, this must be under supervision and within their capabilities. All tasks must be carried out in a manner which promotes health and safety of dog and handler.

Outcome 3

The candidate should demonstrate their ability to carry out routine health tasks often carried out as part of grooming for example the removal of excess hair from the ears, eyes.

Basic tasks to be carried out could include:

- ◆ Nail clipping,
- ◆ Care of ears (plucking and cleaning)
- ◆ Cleaning eyes
- ◆ Cleaning teeth.

Outcome 4

The candidates demonstrate their ability to carry out safe and professional working practices, including knowledge of the possible hazards to dog and handler, and how to avoid them. Dogs must be handled in a way that promotes their confidence and co-operation as well as health and safety.

The cleaning of the work environment should include all surfaces and equipment which should be returned in good working order and condition to its storage for next use.

Candidates should be able to maintain the cleanliness of the work environment to an acceptable standard.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Candidates will be taught in a practical environment, only the theoretical aspects of dog breeds are appropriate for a classroom.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There could be some opportunity for development of the Core Skill *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4), *ICT* (SCQF level 4) and *Problem Solving* (SCQF level 4) during the practical elements of this Unit and Communication (SCQF level 4), written/oral through the assessments. There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate could be presented with 10 different breeds to identify and report on their coat type and grooming needs.

Satisfactory achievement of this Outcome will be based on the candidate producing eight correct responses.

Select the right brushes for the coat types.

Outcome 2

Performance Checklist for all PCs. The appropriate shampoo could include general purpose shampoo, the use of anti-parasitic shampoo and the use of conditioners.

Outcome 3

A practical exercise could be set to test the candidate's ability to remove excess hair from three areas of the dog and carry out three basic hygiene tasks. The assessment could be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

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

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 4

The candidate could be presented with diagrammatic or real life scenarios where hazards have to be identified, or restricted response questions on the likely hazards to be encountered in a grooming parlour. An observation checklist will be required.

Satisfactory achievement of this Outcome will be based on the candidate identifying five potential hazards and the correct method of eliminating or minimising them and performing the requirements.

Performance checklist to cover all PCs.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

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