



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: Parasitology (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6T0 11

SUMMARY

The Unit is aimed at those who wish to develop their knowledge and skills in caring for small animals. The candidate will acquire knowledge of parasitology in relation to the care of small animals.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Identify common ectoparasites and endoparasites of small animals.
- 2 Describe the life cycles of common ectoparasites and endoparasites of small animals
- 3 Describe methods of prevention and control of common ectoparasites and endoparasites of small animals.

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

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2009

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit Specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre, telephone 0845 279 1000.

National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Animal Care: Parasitology (SCQF level 5)

CORE SKILLS

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

There are opportunities for Core Skill development; these are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Animal Care: Parasitology (SCQF level 5)

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

Identify common ectoparasites and endoparasites of small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The identification of common ectoparasites of small animals is correct.
- (b) The identification of common endoparasites of small animals is correct.

OUTCOME 2

Describe the life cycles of common ectoparasites and endoparasites of small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The description of the life cycles of common ectoparasites is correct.
- (b) The description of the life cycles of common endoparasites is correct.
- (c) The description of zoonotic implications of common parasitic infections is correct.

OUTCOME 3

Describe methods of prevention and control of common ectoparasites and endoparasites of small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The description of methods of prevention and control of ectoparasites is correct.
- (b) The description of methods of prevention and control of endoparasites is correct.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Animal Care: Parasitology (SCQF Level 5)

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

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

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have met the requirements of all Outcomes and Performance Criteria (PC).

Outcome 1 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence and Performance evidence

The candidate should demonstrate, in closed-book conditions, the ability to recognise common ectoparasites and endoparasites in small animals from microscope preparations or from pictorial evidence. The candidate should be able to recognise ectoparasites on the animal where possible and indicate which parasites are common in which species.

Performance evidence to identify common parasites, of which at least two must be endoparasites and two ectoparasites.

Outcome 2 — Written and/or oral recorded evidence

The candidate should demonstrate knowledge of the life cycles of common parasites. This should include the importance of intermediate hosts where relevant. There should be some understanding of the methods of transmission between individual animals. The candidate should be aware of the zoonotic risks from parasites with particular regard to fleas, Cheyletiella, Toxocara and Toxoplasma. The candidate should be able to advise others of these risks and be aware of how they may be minimised.

Outcome 3 — Written and/or oral recorded evidence

The candidate should be aware of the differences between treatment and prevention of parasitic infections and of the wide range of treatments available. The candidate should be able to describe the common methods of treating parasitic infections and the relative merits of each, distinguishing between POM-VPS, POM-V, NFA-VPS, and AVM-GSL preparations. The candidate should also be aware of the methods of control of parasites and where their use would be most appropriate

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

UNIT Animal Care: Parasitology (SCQF level 5)

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:

- (AC10) Implement and monitor plans for the health and welfare of animals
- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (CU32) Maintain health and welfare of animals
- (CU34) Promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of animals

On completion of this Unit the candidate will be able to recognise pictures of the common external and internal parasites of small animals. They will be familiar with the lifecycles of these parasites and the zoonotic risks of exposure to them. The candidate should have a basic knowledge of the control and prevention of infection with the common parasites.

Part of the skills for this Unit must be achieved by the handling of small animal species. Access to appropriate species must be available.

Physical Resources which would enhance delivery:

- ◆ Microscopes
- ◆ Prepared slides with parasites

This Unit is designed primarily for dog and cats but should also cover rabbits and other small mammals.

The Unit aims to ensure that the candidate is competent in recognising parasitic infections and is aware of how they may be controlled and prevented in small animals. The candidate should also be able to describe the zoonotic risk posed by the named parasites.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Class teaching should explain the basis of the Unit and deliver the theoretical knowledge. The candidate should be given practical instruction using live animals with parasitic burdens where possible and have microscope preparations of parasites for reference.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Animal Care: Parasitology (SCQF level 5)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There could be opportunities for the development of the Core Skill *Communication* (SCQF level 4) through the identification and description of ectoparasites and endoparasites.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate could be presented with five pictures or microscope preparations of parasites for identification. These should consist of at least two ectoparasites and two endoparasites.

Outcome 2

The candidate could be presented with 20 restricted response questions on the life cycles of common parasites to satisfy Performance Criteria. Where parasites are zoonotic, this should be included in the assessment.

Satisfactory achievement of this Outcome will be based on the candidate producing 14 correct responses.

Outcome 3

The candidate could be presented with a test of 10 restricted response question on prevention and control — five on ectoparasites and five on endoparasites. These should include topical applications, injections, pills and other medicines taken internally. Treatment to the environment should also be included.

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

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)*.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Animal Care: Parasitology (SCQF level 5)

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