

-SQA-SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

-Module Number-	1180138	-Session-1998-99
-Superclass-	SN	
-Title-	VETERINARY CARE AUXILIARY: PHARMACY	

-DESCRIPTION-

GENERAL COMPETENCE FOR UNIT: Describing the common pharmacological preparations used in small animal practice and demonstrating the ability to dispense medicines and to administer basic medications to animals.

This unit must be delivered by either a veterinary surgeon or an experienced veterinary nurse. Further details on centre requirements for delivery are outlined in the support notes.

OUTCOMES

1. outline the classification of pharmacological products used in small animal veterinary practice;
2. identify the legal requirements for the storage and dispensing of medicines;
3. dispense medicines on the authority of the veterinary surgeon;
4. administer medicines to companion animals.

CREDIT VALUE: 1 NC Credit

ACCESS STATEMENT: No formal entry requirements.

For further information contact: Committee and Administration Unit, SQA, Hanover House, 24 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 7NQ.

Additional copies of this unit may be purchased from SQA (Sales and Despatch section). At the time of publication, the cost is £1.50 (minimum order £5.00).

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION**STATEMENT OF STANDARDS****UNIT NUMBER:** 1180138**UNIT TITLE:** VETERINARY CARE AUXILIARY: PHARMACY

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

OUTCOME

1. OUTLINE THE CLASSIFICATION OF PHARMACOLOGICAL PRODUCTS USED IN SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY PRACTICE

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Pharmacological products are correctly classified.
- (b) The mode of action of pharmacological products is correctly described.
- (c) The possible side effects of drugs are correctly described.
- (d) The formulation and routes of administration of drugs are correctly described.

RANGE STATEMENT

Classification: body system; effect.

Administration: systemic; topical.

Formulation:

oral: solid; liquid.

injectable: solutions; suspensions.

inhaled: gases.

topical preparations.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all performance criteria.

OUTCOME

2. IDENTIFY THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STORAGE AND DISPENSING OF MEDICINES

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) The requirement for safe keeping of medicines is identified and includes reference to the appropriate legislation.
- (b) The requirement for correct dispensing of medicines is explained and includes reference to the appropriate legislation.
- (c) The ethical implications of drug administration are correctly identified with respect to illegal use of medicines.
- (d) Health and safety aspects of handling medicines are clearly explained.

RANGE STATEMENT

Legislation: Medicines Act 1968; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1985; Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; COSHH Regulations 1988.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all performance criteria.

OUTCOME

3. DISPENSE MEDICINES ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE VETERINARY SURGEON

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) The correct medicine is selected and checked with an appropriate person.
- (b) The amount of drug required is correctly prepared as instructed.
- (c) The medicine is dispensed in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- (d) The medicine is dispensed in an appropriate container.
- (e) The medicine is correctly labelled and appropriate record made.
- (f) Health and safety procedures are correctly followed throughout the procedure.

RANGE STATEMENT

Appropriate person:

POM/PML: veterinary surgeon.
GSL: veterinary surgeon; veterinary nurse.

Medicine:

oral: solid; liquid.
topical preparations.

Health and safety procedures: Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; COSHH Regulations 1988.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Performance evidence in the form of a checklist which satisfies that all activities in the performance criteria have been correctly carried out.

Work products in the form of dispensed medicines and correct labels.

OUTCOME

4. ADMINISTER MEDICINES TO COMPANION ANIMALS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) The routes of administration of medicines and their relative merits are clearly explained.
- (b) The correct medicine for the animal to be treated is selected and dosage calculated and checked with an appropriate person.
- (c) The correct equipment for administration of the medicine is selected and prepared accordingly.
- (d) The animal is adequately restrained for the administration of the medicine.
- (e) The medicine is correctly administered and the event recorded.
- (f) Equipment is correctly disposed of.
- (g) Health and safety procedures are correctly observed throughout.

RANGE STATEMENT

Routes: oral; topical; parenteral.

Appropriate person:

POM PML: veterinary surgeon.
GSL: veterinary surgeon; veterinary nurse.

Administration: oral; topical; sub cutaneous injection.

Animals: dogs; cats.

Health and safety: Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; COSHH Regulations 1988.

Disposal requirements: COSHH Regulations 1988.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence for PC (a).

Performance evidence in the form of a cross referenced checklist which satisfies all other other performance criteria. Written and/or oral questioning to support the range.

ASSESSMENT

In order to achieve this unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. The assessment instruments used should follow the general guidance offered by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Accurate records should be made of the assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each outcome and giving marking schemes and/or checklists, etc. Records of candidates' achievements should be kept. These records will be available for external verification.

SPECIAL NEEDS

In certain cases, modified outcomes and range statements can be proposed for certification. See references at end of support notes.

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NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE: UNIT SPECIFICATION**SUPPORT NOTES**

UNIT NUMBER: 1180138

UNIT TITLE: VETERINARY CARE AUXILIARY: PHARMACY

SUPPORT NOTES: This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

NOTIONAL DESIGN LENGTH: SQA allocates a notional design length to a unit on the basis of time estimated for achievement of the stated standards by a candidate whose starting point is as described in the access statement. The notional design length for this unit is 40 hours. The use of notional design length for programme design and timetabling is advisory only.

PURPOSE SQA publishes summaries of NC units for easy reference, publicity purposes, centre handbooks, etc. The summary statement for this unit is as follows:

On completion of this unit the candidate will be able to correctly dispense medicines in a veterinary pharmacy. They will have cognisance of the legal requirements attached to the supply of medicines and aware of the limitations of the lay person in the role of dispenser.

It is recommended by the RCVS that these modules are delivered by a veterinary surgeon or an experienced veterinary nurse.

It should be noted that considerable resources are required to deliver these modules.

Part of the skills for this module must be achieved in the working environment of a veterinary practice.

Centre Requirements for Unit Delivery

Teaching Staff: appropriately qualified Veterinary Surgeons or Veterinary Nurses only should be responsible for the delivery and assessment of this unit. The use of specialist speakers/guest practitioners in appropriate areas should be considered.

Veterinary Practice: access to a veterinary practice is required to cover the Outcomes in this unit adequately.

Physical Resources:

- Examination room equipped with appropriate tables.
- Equipment for the administration of medicines by the oral or parenteral routes.
- Pharmacy with placebo medications and labelling facilities.
- Clinical waste receptacle.

CONTENT/CONTEXT This unit is designed primarily for dogs and cats.

The candidate should have a basic knowledge of the common classifications of medicines, their mechanisms of action and potential side effects. They should be aware of all the legislation pertaining to the storage, supply and use of medicines and should be able to dispense medicines correctly on the authority of a suitably qualified person. The candidate should demonstrate the ability to administer basic preparations to animals under suitable supervision.

This unit should be taught by a veterinary surgeon or veterinary pharmacologist. It is intended to be a basic unit for candidates who in most cases will only be carrying out these tasks under supervision.

Corresponding to the outcomes:

1. The candidate will have a basic knowledge of the types of drugs used in small animal veterinary practice. They will be able to describe a drug by pharmacological classification of its action and by its use in the body. This could use a body system approach for classification and cross reference to the drug effect. Where necessary the potential side effects of drugs should be included, this would be of particular importance where side effects might necessitate immediate veterinary advice. The advantages and disadvantages of various formulations of medicines and routes of administration should be discussed.
2. The candidate should be made fully aware of the legal requirements for the keeping and dispensing of medicines. They should recognise the various legal classifications of medicines and be able to state the requirements for keeping and dispensing each category. The candidate should constantly be told of the requirement for them to check all medications of all categories prior to either dispensing or administration. The ethical aspects of pharmacy should be emphasised and a reference made to the illegal use of medicines and the use and withdrawal of medicines in food animals. The potential hazards in handling medicines and correct procedures for handling medicines should be explained. Reference should be made to the appropriate legislation.
3. The candidates should demonstrate their ability to dispense medicines to the general public under the supervision of a veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon. Within this performance criteria it is essential that reference is made to checking throughout the dispensing procedure with an appropriately qualified person. The candidate should be aware of the legal requirements for the dispensing of medicines and show the ability to handle medicines correctly with reference to the appropriate health and safety legislation. It is essential that candidates recognise the correct product and strength requested, special handling requirements if appropriate, the requirement to dispense in an appropriate container and the correct container for the particular product. Dosage calculations and directions for administration should be checked against a prescription. Emphasis should be placed on the requirements for accurate and correct labelling of all products dispensed. Accurate recording of all medicines dispensed should be made and checked in a manner appropriate for the legal classification and the requirements of the practice.

4. The candidate should be aware of the advantages and disadvantages of all the common routes of administration of medicines and the rationale behind the choice of route made by the veterinary surgeon. The necessity for adequate restraint and the limitations of some routes should be clearly understood. The requirement for special equipment should be recognised and where appropriate the candidate should be able to demonstrate the selection, assembly, use and disposal of this equipment. In this context oral, topical and sub cutaneous administration of medicines only are required. This allow the candidate to demonstrate all the necessary procedures but limits the routes of administration to those appropriate to this level of responsibility and expertise. It is intended that the majority of the medicines administered should be GSL or PML and that POM medicines should only be administered where an appropriate GSL or PML product is not available. It is essential that throughout this unit adequate emphasis is placed on the limitations of the candidate and that all procedures should be supervised throughout. Recording of the administration of medicines should be in accordance with both the required legislation and the requirements of the practice, this will vary depending on the medication and the animal to which the medication was administered. Health and Safety aspects of Handling of Medicines, Handling of Animals, Disposal of Waste should be emphasised throughout.

NB. The administration of a sub-cutaneous injections to any animal requires either that the procedures or preparation has been prescribed by a veterinary surgeon or that the operator is in possession of a Home Office license. The administration of parenteral placebos is not legally persissable.

APPROACHES TO GENERATING EVIDENCE Introductory classes should cover all aspects of the unit and thereafter the candidate should obtain practical instruction both in college and in the veterinary practice. Assessments carried out in practice are unlikely to be supervised by a workplace assessor with the appropriate D Units. The term workplace supervisor will therefore be used with the role of witness to the ability of the candidate to carry out the tasks within the unit. In most circumstances this would be necessary to ensure the Range is adequately covered.

The provision of a Pharmacy within the College will ensure that the tasks are adequately practiced prior to the candidate carrying them out in veterinary practice.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES Corresponding to outcomes:

1. Restricted response questions or multiple choice questions for performance criteria (a), (b) (c). Multiple choice questions with oral questioning to support the range for performance criterion (d). Possible spot identification test for identification of products and formulations.
2. Restricted response questions or multiple choice questions with oral questioning to support the range for all performance criteria. Work products in the form of written records.
3. Work products in the form of dispensed, correctly labelled medicine. Performance evidence with multiple choice or oral questioning to support the range.

4. Performance evidence with oral questioning to support the range for all performance criteria.

RECOGNITION Many SQA NC units are recognised for entry/recruitment purposes. For up-to-date information see the SQA guide 'Recognised Groupings of National Certificate Modules'.

REFERENCES

1. Guide to unit writing. (A018).
2. For a fuller discussion on assessment issues, please refer to SQA's Guide to Assessment. (B005).
3. Procedures for special needs statements are set out in SQA's guide 'Candidates with Special Needs'. (B006).
4. Information for centres on SQA's operating procedures is contained in SQA's Guide to Procedures. (F009).
5. For details of other SQA publications, please consult SQA's publications list. (X037).

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