



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: Health Care (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6SK 11

SUMMARY

The candidate will acquire and apply knowledge of the health care of small animals, in particular dogs and cats. The Unit is aimed at those who wish to develop skills in animal health, prophylactic care and first aid.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Describe the signs of normal health and of ill health in small animals.
- 2 Administer routine health care for small animals.
- 3 Describe the preventative health care for 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

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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 signs of normal health and of ill health in small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Signs of health and ill health in small animals are correctly described.
- (b) Perform a basic examination correctly.
- (c) Describe correctly the action to be taken when signs of ill health or injury are detected.

OUTCOME 2

Administer routine health care for small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The equipment and products to be used is correctly identified.
- (b) Routine health care procedures in small animals are correctly carried out.
- (c) Routine medications are correctly administered to small animals.
- (d) Recording and monitoring is carried out correctly.

OUTCOME 3

Describe the preventative health care for small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the appropriate environment for an animal correctly.
- (b) Describe how exercise and physical activity should be provided.
- (c) Describe vaccination and endo/ectoparasite prevention regime correctly.
- (d) Describe the effect of lifestage on health care programmes.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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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 and to the duty of care concerning pet and farmed animals

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and performance evidence supplemented with an assessor observer checklist 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 of the candidate's ability to describe signs of health and ill health in at least two species.

Performance evidence of candidate's ability to carry out a basic examination in two species.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence of candidate's ability to describe two actions to take for five signs of ill health or injury.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence of candidate's ability to demonstrate at least two health care procedures. The candidate must select the correct equipment and products, monitor the animal and record procedure correctly.

Outcome 3

Written and/or recorded oral evidence in the form of an assignment to plan a health care programme. This should include appropriate environment for animals, the provision of exercise or physical activity, vaccination and endo/ecto parasite regime and variations to the programme for young, adult and geriatric lifestages.

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 a mandatory 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 and describe signs of ill health in animals and administer routine health care procedures to animals. The candidate should be able to identify correctly equipment and products. They should be able to devise a health care programme for a dog and carry out action or appropriate basic first aid to animals when ill health or injury is detected.

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

These could include:

- ◆ Handling aids, baskets, towels, muzzles, leads
- ◆ Nail clippers, toothbrushes and paste, ear cleaners, grooming, equipment, scales
- ◆ Medicine packaging
- ◆ Topical preparations, oral preparations

This Unit is designed primarily for dogs, cats and rabbits.

The Unit aims to ensure that the candidate is competent in describing signs of ill-health and developing health care programmes for animals. The candidate should demonstrate his/her ability to perform health examinations, routine care and limited first aid procedures.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Corresponding to Outcomes:

Outcome 1

The candidate should demonstrate his/her ability to recognise signs of health and ill health in animals. He/she should be able to perform a basic health examination and recognise and describe any physical abnormalities. The candidate should be able to recognise behavioural signs of ill health including changes in ambulation, posture, demeanour and changes in urinary or defaecatory habits. The candidate should describe appropriate action to be taken in the event of discovery of illness or injury. First Aid techniques in response to ill health or injury delivered should be at a basic level.

Outcome 2

The candidate should demonstrate their ability to perform routine health care procedures such as nail clipping and grooming. The candidate should be aware of the need for appropriate restraint to avoid injury to themselves and animals. Appropriate protective clothing and restraint equipment should be available. The candidate should recognise categories and types of medicines and be aware of restrictions on their use. Emphasis should be placed on the candidate following instructions on the medicine packaging with regard to species, method of application and frequency of application. The candidate should be able to administer topical and oral preparations appropriately, using restraint if required.

Outcome 3

The candidate should be able to devise a suitable environment, exercise health care programme for a dog, cat or rabbit. Consideration should be given to variations and routine administration of antiparasitic treatments. The candidate should be aware of the range of treatments and the respective benefits of each. The difference between prevention and treatment of infestations should be emphasised. The vaccination programme should also consider lifestage.

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 also obtain practical instruction using live animals. Adequate numbers of individual animals should be available to minimise stress. Photographs could be used where welfare considerations mean ill animals are not available.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There could be opportunities for developing the Core Skills *Working with Others* — perhaps during handling of animals, *Problem Solving* while devising care programmes. *Communication* and *IT* when producing the assignment, and *Numeracy* when administering routine medications. However there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate could be presented with restricted response questions to test knowledge of signs of health and ill health. A practical exercise could be set to test the application of the skill and knowledge required to perform health checks on a minimum of two animals. The assessment could be carried out with the aid of a performance evidence checklist.

The candidate could be presented with five restricted response questions on appropriate actions to be taken when signs of illness or injury are detected.

Outcome 2

The candidate could be presented with a practical exercise to demonstrate the skills and knowledge required to perform routine health checks and administer medicines appropriately. The assessment could be carried out with the aid of a performance evidence checklist.

Outcome 3

The candidate could be presented with an assignment to design a health care programme for a small animal. Small in this context includes dog cat or rabbit.

This should include appropriate environment for animals, the provision of exercise or physical activity, vaccination and endo/ecto parasite regime and variations to the programme for young, adult and geriatric lifestages.

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