



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: Accommodation and Handling (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6SM 11

SUMMARY

This Unit will be suitable for candidates who have some basic knowledge of animal care. The aim is to provide appropriate theory and performance work that will allow the candidates to confidently care for and handle small animals.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Describe accommodation for small animals.
- 2 Describe and carry out appropriate maintenance routines for small animal accommodation.
- 3 Describe and carry out appropriate handling techniques for small animals.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

There are no formal entry requirements although a basic practical knowledge of small animal husbandry would be advantageous

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

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

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4)
- ◆ *Communication* (SCQF level 4)
- ◆ *Problem Solving* (SCQF level 4)

These opportunities 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 accommodation for small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Type and size of accommodation described meets the needs and circumstances of the given small animal.
- (b) Environmental conditions are correctly described.
- (c) Safety and security requirements are correctly described.

OUTCOME 2

Describe and carry out appropriate maintenance routines for small animal accommodation.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The cleaning routine is correctly described and carried out.
- (b) Waste materials are disposed of correctly.
- (c) Accommodation is checked for hazardous defects and deterioration correctly.

OUTCOME 3

Describe and carry out appropriate handling techniques for small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Equipment for control, movement and restraint of small animals is correctly selected.
- (b) Appropriate handling, lifting and restraint techniques are described and carried out correctly for a range of situations, in accordance with health and safety procedures.

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 health and safety legislation, regulations, codes of practice and manufacturers' recommendations where appropriate.

Written and/or recorded oral 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

The candidate must describe the accommodation requirements of at least three species and three different circumstances for the small animal.

Outcome 2 — Performance evidence and written and/or recorded oral evidence

The candidate must clean at least two different types of accommodation and correctly dispose of waste and checking for hazardous defects and deterioration.

Written and/or oral evidence that the candidate can describe routines for two additional types of accommodation.

Outcome 3 — Performance evidence

Performance evidence that the candidate can safely handle at least four species of animal and one of these species in at least three different situations.

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:

- (AC1) Assist with the movement and handling of animals
- (AC4) Provide exercise opportunities for 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
- (CU29) Assist with the care of animals
- (CU30) Assist with Animal Accommodation
- (CU31) Assist with the movement of animals
- (CU32) Maintain health and welfare of animals
- (CU37) Establish and maintain animals within their accommodation
- (CU39) Plan, monitor and evaluate the accommodation of animals
- (CU45) Control and restrain animals
- (CU115) Control, handle and restrain animals

On completion of this Unit the candidate will have knowledge of the accommodation and handling techniques required for the range of species. They will understand what types of accommodation are suitable and how to clean and maintain the accommodation. They will understand and be able to apply the various handling techniques discussed, including restraining aids. The candidate will also have the knowledge of exercise requirements of the range of species and in special circumstances.

Physical Resources which would be required to deliver this Unit include:

- ◆ Selection of small animals
- ◆ Access to accommodation for a range of small animals
- ◆ Appropriate classroom equipment
- ◆ A selection of restraint and handling aids as defined in the range statement

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Corresponding to the Outcomes:

Outcome 1

The candidate should develop a knowledge of materials that can be used when designing and building accommodation and their advantages and disadvantages. Size and design, relating to the animals behavioural and physical needs. Furnishings and environmental enrichment aids should be discussed.

Outcome 2

The candidate should develop an understanding of the correct procedures that should be followed when cleaning and maintaining accommodation. Safe and secure movement of animals whilst accommodation is being cleaned. Correct disposal of waste and appropriate cleaning materials, including care and maintenance will be understood. This should also cover the legal aspects regarding waste disposal. The candidate will also understand the need for safety, examination of accommodation for potential hazards and appropriate action that should be taken.

It is expected that candidates will develop knowledge of more systems of accommodation than they will work on in the practical situation.

Outcome 3

Candidates will be instructed on the handling and restraining techniques used for the range of species. Knowledge of equipment, including protective clothing and aids will be gained allowing the handling of difficult and aggressive animals. The candidate will also be trained in the handling techniques used for administration of a range of medications as well as for examination and exercise or transportation.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Candidates will be taught both in the classroom and on a practical basis. It is important that the candidate is allowed access to more than one type of animal accommodation for each species. This may involve visiting different establishments from the main teaching Unit.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There could be some opportunities for development of the Core Skills *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4), *Communication* (SCQF level 4), *Problem Solving* (SCQF level 4) during the practical delivery of this Unit. 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 10 restricted response questions which identify accommodation requirements of three different species and of three different circumstances.

Outcome 2

The candidate could be observed cleaning and preparing the accommodation of at least two species and correctly disposing of waste.

The candidate could be presented with five restricted response questions to test knowledge of the maintenance of two additional types of accommodation.

Satisfactory achievement will be based on answering three questions correctly and carrying out the practical tasks to an appropriate standard.

Outcome 3

The candidate could be observed selecting appropriate equipment and handling at least three different species.

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