



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: Reptile and Amphibian Care (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6SR 11

SUMMARY

This Unit may be suitable for candidates who seek a basic knowledge of caring for reptiles and amphibians.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Identify suitable species of reptiles and amphibians that can be maintained in captivity.
- 2 Identify and carry out husbandry routines for a range of reptiles and amphibians.
- 3 Recognise common health problems in a range of reptiles and amphibians.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

0.5 credit at SCQF level 5 (3 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.*

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

Administrative Information

Superclass:	SP
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National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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

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 suitable species of reptiles and amphibians that can be maintained in captivity.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The identification of suitable species of reptiles and amphibians that can be maintained in captivity is correct.
- (b) Describe the suitability of different species of reptile and amphibian as captive pets.

OUTCOME 2

Identify and carry out husbandry routines for a range of reptiles and amphibians.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The specification of the habitat and housing requirements of reptiles and amphibians maintained in captivity is correct.
- (b) The specification of specialist feeds and feeding methods for reptiles and amphibians maintained in captivity is correct.
- (c) The restraint of reptiles and amphibians maintained in captivity is correct.

OUTCOME 3

Recognise common health problems in a range of reptiles and amphibians.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Recognise signs of health and ill-health in reptiles and amphibians.
- (b) Recognise common disease problems in reptiles and amphibians.
- (c) Describe the remedial treatments for common disease problems in captive reptiles and amphibians.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

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).

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

Outcome 1

Performance evidence to identify 10 commonly kept reptile and species.

Written and/or oral recorded oral evidence of the suitability of five commonly kept species.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence of preparing and maintaining accommodation for two reptiles and one amphibian.

Performance evidence of supplying food to at least three different species of reptiles and amphibians with different dietary requirements.

Written and/or oral recorded oral evidence of dietary requirements and accommodation requirements of at least three different species.

Performance evidence of handling two different reptile or amphibian species.

Outcome 3

Performance evidence of the candidates ability to recognise symptoms of ill health and two common diseases.

The use of photographs for the purpose of identifying diseases is permitted.

Written and/or oral recorded oral evidence of candidates ability to describe remedial treatments for five common diseases.

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: Reptile and Amphibian Care (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 20 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:

- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (CU29) Assist with the care of animals
- (CU32) Maintain health and welfare of animals
- (CU33) Provide feed and water to animals
- (CU34) Promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of animals
- (CU37) Establish and maintain animals within their accommodation
- (CU39) Plan, monitor and evaluate the accommodation of animals
- (CU115) Control, handle and restrain animals

On completion of this Unit the candidate should recognise species of reptiles and amphibians which are commonly kept in captivity, understanding their basic husbandry requirements and be able to recognise common disease conditions of these animals.

Physical Resources which would be required for the delivery of this Unit include:

- ◆ Appropriate classroom equipment
- ◆ Access to a selection of reptiles
- ◆ Access to a selection of amphibians
- ◆ Appropriate visual aids.

Corresponding to the Outcomes:

Outcome 1

The candidate should develop a knowledge of and ability to recognise a range of reptiles and amphibians that are commonly kept. They should learn which species are easily maintained and which are for the more advanced reptile keeper. They should be aware of the legal restrictions which pertain to the keeping of exotic species including the CITES regulations, The Dangerous Wild Animals Act, Zoo Licensing Act etc.

The candidate should be made aware of the difference between captive bred, wild caught and captive reared individuals.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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Outcome 2

The candidate should learn about the different husbandry requirements of a range of the most commonly kept reptiles and amphibians, ensuring that at least one of each of the groups in the range statement is covered. This should include some practical involvement and the candidate should be able to set up a vivarium with all the appropriate equipment to the species kept. It may be necessary to cover the basic physiology of the reptiles and amphibian so that the candidate develops an understanding of why the animal's husbandry requirements are such as they are.

Outcome 3

The candidate should learn about the signs of health and ill-health in commonly kept reptiles and amphibians. They should be able to recognise the most common disease problems encountered by these species and to understand that many of the problems seen in these species are directly related to inappropriate husbandry.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Candidates will be taught in the classroom and on a practical basis. They should have access to reptiles and amphibians which are being kept in captivity and be able to handle and care for them. It is important that they also visit other reptile and amphibian centres.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There could be an opportunity for the development of the Core Skills *Communication* (SCQF level 4), *ICT* (SCQF level 4) within Outcomes 1 and 2 and *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4) in the practical elements of this Unit. No automatic certification of complete Core Skills is provided in this Unit.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate could be presented with pictures of 10 commonly kept reptiles and amphibians. Satisfactory achievement would be based on correctly identifying eight of the species.

The candidate could be asked five restricted response questions regarding suitability of different species. Satisfactory achievement would be based on answering four of the questions correctly.

Outcome 2

The candidate could be observed preparing and maintaining a vivarium and providing food for at least three different species of reptiles and amphibian with different dietary requirements.

The candidate could be observed catching two species and then restraining it for examination. Satisfactory achievement would be based on carrying out all these procedures in a safe and appropriate manner. The candidate could be presented with 10 restricted response question papers to cover feeding and accommodation requirements of reptiles and amphibians.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Satisfactory achievement would be based on answering seven of the questions correctly.

Outcome 3

The candidate could be asked five restricted response questions on remedial treatment for common diseases. Satisfactory achievement would be based on answering a least four questions correctly.

Practical exercise to test the candidates ability to recognise symptoms of ill health and two common diseases. This could be achieved using a practical exercise on ill health symptoms and causes. Candidates could be provided with pictures of five reptile diseases or pests. Satisfactory achievement would be based on identifying and naming the diseases stating the causes and then stating the symptoms.

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