



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Animal Care: Safe Working Practices (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6T2 11

SUMMARY

The candidate will acquire and apply knowledge of the occupational hazards and Health and Safety legislation pertaining to the care of small animals.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Identify the risks of contracting diseases from small animals and describe the preventative measures which should be adopted.
- 2 Describe potentially hazardous situations in dealing with small animals and the appropriate measures to reduce them.

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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: PL

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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

Identify the risks of contracting diseases from small animals and describe the preventative measures which should be adopted.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Potential zoonotic diseases of small animals and their means of transmission are correctly identified.
- (b) Circumstances where infection may be transferred from small animals are clearly identified.
- (c) Ways of reducing potential infection are clearly described.

OUTCOME 2

Describe the appropriate measures to deal with potentially hazardous situations and substances when working with small animals and their environment.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify key legislation and regulations in relation to working in an animal care environment.
- (b) Describe clearly common hazardous situations which may occur when working with small animals in an animal care environment.
- (c) Describe how to handle hazardous substances correctly when dealing with small animals and their environment.
- (d) Describe action to reduce or minimise risk to self, other personnel and animals.
- (e) Select the appropriate equipment and clothing for a variety of hazardous situations.

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.

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

The candidate should be presented with restricted response questions to satisfy all the Performance Criteria in both Outcomes.

Outcome 1 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence

Written and/or recorded oral evidence to cover all the Performance Criteria in the content including at least one bacterial, viral, fungal, protozoal and parasitic disease. Selected methods of prevention of disease should be included.

Outcome 2 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required to cover all the Performance Criteria in the content, including Risk Assessment & COSHH, Hazardous situations and substances which include some aspects of fire prevention.

Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates.

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 20 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:

- (A) Ensure your own actions reduce risk to health and safety (ENTO)
- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (AC10) Implement and monitor plans for the health and welfare of animals
- (AC3) Maintain the cleanliness of the working environment
- (CU31) Assist with the movement of animals
- (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 correctly identify risks associated with working with small animals and the methods of minimising the risks. The candidates will also be aware of legislation pertaining to safe working practices in small animal facilities.

Physical Resources could include:

- ◆ Protective clothing
- ◆ Fire fighting equipment
- ◆ Waste storage and disposal equipment including cinbins and appropriate disposal bags

The Unit aims to ensure that the candidate is competent in recognising and dealing appropriately with risks and hazards associated with working with small animals. The candidate will be aware of relevant legislation where applicable.

Corresponding to Outcomes:

Outcome 1

The candidate should be aware of the risk of contracting zoonotic disease. Only the common zoonotic infections — viral, bacterial and parasitic — should be discussed and the candidate should be aware of the disease risk, the means of transmission and the methods commonly used to prevent infection. It is not envisaged that either the mechanisms of transfer of disease or the principles of vaccination be discussed in depth in this Unit. The requirement to adopt safe working practices to avoid infection should be stressed.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Small animals that could be covered may include: dog; cat; rabbit; gerbil; guinea pig; rat; mouse; ferret; hamster.

Zoonotic diseases covered should include: bacterial; viral; fungal; protozoal; endoparasite; ectoparasites. Means of transmission covered must include: direct; indirect.

Methods of reduction of infection could include: vaccination of man; vaccination of animals; use of isolation and quarantine; use of protective clothing.

Outcome 2

These procedures should encompass the use of correct protective clothing and the implementation of personal hygiene measures. The candidate should have an awareness of correct storage and disposal methods for special wastes. The various ways that infection can enter the body could be considered. The candidate should be aware of some of the common risk factors associated with various hazards and know how to take appropriate action. A basic awareness of COSHH, Risk Assessment and other relevant Health and Safety legislation is all that is required for this Unit.

Hazardous situations considered could be from: bites; scratches; zoonotic diseases; handling and accidental spillage of hazardous chemicals; use of electrical equipment; handling contaminated waste; handling needles; lifting.

Hazardous substances considered could include: chemicals; medicines; animal wastes.

The basic concept of risk assessment should be considered along with action on the initial assessment
Personal hygiene products may include: soap; detergents; antiseptics.

The fire precautions and procedures to adopt in case of fire should be covered. Reference could be made to combustible substances found in animal care facilities. The procedures for dealing with animals and members of the public within the facility should be included. The candidate should be able to identify the use of different items of fire fighting equipment and give an example of their possible use. Fire fighting equipment covered could include: fire hoses; fire blankets; sand buckets; wet and dry extinguishers.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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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 where possible and have access to protective clothing and fire-fighting equipment.

Students are only required to have an awareness of Health & Safety Legislation and are not expected to dwell on the detail associated with some of the common acts.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills.

Communications, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology and the *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4) components will be some of the Core Skills used in this Unit.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Outcome 1

The candidate could be presented with 10 restricted response questions to satisfy Performance Criteria (a), (b) and (c).

Satisfactory achievement of this Outcome will be based on the candidate producing seven correct responses for Performance Criteria (a), (b) and (c).

Outcome 2

The candidate could be presented with 10 restricted response questions to satisfy all the Performance Criteria in both Outcomes that require written evidence. At least two questions each should be assigned to LO2 Performance Criteria (a), (b), (c) and (d). Satisfactory achievement of this Outcome will be based on the candidate producing seven correct responses for the LO2 Performance Criteria (a), (b), (c) and (d).

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)*.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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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