



National unit specification

General information

Unit title: Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals
(SCQF level 4)

Unit code: HG86 44

Superclass: SP

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Version: 02

Unit purpose

This unit allows the learner to develop knowledge of basic first aid in animals including the identification of conditions or circumstances which may require an intervention as well as the basic steps which can be taken to assist an injured or unwell animal.

The unit is suitable for those who wish to pursue a career within the animal care sector or those working towards a National Certificate qualification in Animal Care. The unit may also be suitable for those who simply wish to develop basic competencies in first aid for animals.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Assist with a preliminary examination and assess urgency of conditions in small animals.
- 2 Describe and assist with first aid procedures for small animals.
- 3 Describe appropriate restraint and transport of injured or unwell small animals.

Credit points and level

1 National unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4)

Recommended entry to the unit

There are no formal entry requirements for this unit. Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

National unit specification: General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill	None
Core Skill component	Critical Thinking at SCQF level 3

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

Context for delivery

If this unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Equality and inclusion

This unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

National unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals
(SCQF level 4)

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

Assist with a preliminary examination and assess urgency of conditions in small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Assist with a basic first aid examination including assessment of airways, breathing, circulation, haemorrhage, level of consciousness and lameness.
- (b) Assess the urgency of a range of first aid conditions in small animals.

Outcome 2

Describe and assist with first aid procedures for small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe appropriate actions to be taken for a range of first aid conditions.
- (b) Assist with first aid procedures for a range of first aid conditions.

Outcome 3

Describe appropriate restraint and transport of injured or unwell small animals.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe methods of restraining and transporting injured or unwell small animals in a first aid situation.

National unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

- (a) Performance evidence to demonstrate ability to assist with a basic preliminary first aid examination including:
- ◆ Assessment of:
 - airways
 - breathing
 - circulation (to include mucous membrane colour and capillary refill time)
 - level of consciousness
 - lameness or limb deformity
 - haemorrhage
- (b) Written and/or recorded oral evidence to demonstrate the learner's ability to judge the urgency of a variety of first-aid situations in small animals.

Outcome 2

- (a) Written and/or recorded oral evidence to describe appropriate actions to be taken in first aid situations.
- (b) Performance evidence to demonstrate ability to assist with a minimum of two first aid procedures on an injured or unwell small animal.

Outcome 3

Written and/or recorded oral evidence to describe appropriate methods of restraining and transporting injured or unwell animals in a first aid situation.



National unit Support Notes

Unit title: Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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 unit can be delivered as a free-standing unit or as a unit within the SCQF level 4 or 5 National Certificate awards in Animal Care.

This unit is designed to give learners a basic understanding of first aid care and restraint in small animal emergencies.

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to carry out a basic first aid examination, assess the urgency of the situation and be able to make some decisions on the appropriate course of action. The learner will be able to employ appropriate methods of restraint and describe appropriate means of transport for an injured or unwell small animal.

Learners who complete this unit as part of the SCQF level 4 Animal Care: An Introduction National Certificate may wish to consider progression to National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 5. Learners, who complete this unit as part of the National Certificate in Animal Care course at SCQF level 5, may wish to consider progression to Higher National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 7.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

For purposes of demonstration it should be possible for learners to have access to appropriate restraint equipment which might include muzzles, catching poles, cat restraining bags, cat crush cages, stretchers, towels and blankets. Access to live animals may be appropriate for demonstration of first aid techniques or may alternatively be performed through simulation in an appropriate manner. Where live animals are used due consideration must be given to the health and wellbeing of the animals.

Outcome 1

Assessment of Airway, Breathing and Circulation (ABCs) could appropriately be performed on live animal species in order to realistically assess, eg assessment of breathing, respiratory rate, mucous membrane colour, capillary refill time, lameness, level of consciousness, etc. It is anticipated that some learners at this level could assist a more experienced tutor with a first aid assessment whereas more confident learners may be able to take a more active role.

National unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals

Urgency and prioritising of different first aid situations could be delivered through classroom discussions, in a tutorial environment drawing on case studies or through co-operative learning tasks. Conditions may include haemorrhage, shock, fractures, dislocations, burns, poisoning, stings, bites, wounds and broken nails. Likely actions and consequences of failure to act in certain situations could be addressed.

Outcome 2

Learning for Outcome 2 could be delivered with part (b) of Outcome 1 as these processes naturally integrate with each other. Case studies and classroom discussions along with co-operative learning tasks may be appropriate in the delivery of these topics. Areas covered could include: haemorrhage control, bandaging and airway maintenance. First aid procedures could be demonstrated on live animals, where appropriate, or could be through simulation allowing the learner to make use of equipment which would accurately represent that used in real first aid situations. Learners should be given ample opportunity to be involved in practical first aid tasks.

Outcome 3

Methods of restraining and moving sick and injured animals could be delivered using case studies as well as practical demonstrations. Areas covered could include: collars and leads, slip leads, catching poles, muzzles, boxes, baskets, crush cages, etc.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Outcome 1 part (a), Outcome 2 part (a) and Outcome 3 could be assessed together in a single holistic assessment taking the form of a closed-book assessment with 15 restricted response questions.

Outcome 1 part (b) and Outcome 2 part (b) could be assessed together in the form of a practical tasks in which the learner is asked to assist with a first aid assessment and assist with a minimum of two first aid actions. This assessment could be carried out making use of live animals or through simulation. Observations checklists could be used to record learner performance.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

National unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals

Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when learners achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 3.

History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 3 embedded.	XXXX

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General information for learners

Unit title: Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals

This section will help you decide whether this is the unit for you by explaining what the unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This unit is aimed at providing you with basic first aid skills for use with small animals. Successful completion of the unit will demonstrate that you can assist with a basic assessment on an animal which has been injured or is unwell and assess the urgency of the animal's ailments. You will be able to assist with appropriate first aid actions to minimise the risks to the animal and you will understand use of appropriate restraint methods to minimise the risk of injury to the handler or further injury to the patient.

The assessment for this unit is likely to combine both theory and practical assessments to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding as well as your ability to apply them in a practical context.

This unit might be suitable for you if you are interested in pursuing a career in the animal care sector or simply to equip you to recognise the need for first aid and carry out first aid on small animals in many situations.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when you achieve the Unit, your Core Skills profile will also be updated to show you have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 3.