

Group Award Specification for:

National Certificate (NC) in Animal Care: An Introduction at SCQF level 4

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1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the Arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification
- provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification
- inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification
- provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities

The National Certificate in Animal Care: An Introduction at SCQF level 4 has been designed as an entry level qualification which will provide the learner with a range of knowledge and skills relevant to the animal care sector.

It has been designed to provide a progression route to the existing SCQF level 5 National Certificate in Animal Care and will also provide underpinning knowledge that would support the completion of the SVQ in Animal Care (SCQF level 5).

The NC covers the basics of small animal care including feeding, handling and accommodation in addition to introductory anatomy and first aid. There are also a range of optional units to allow centres flexibility to meet learner and employer needs.

It is suitable for a range of learners, including school leavers, those wishing to progress to higher level studies, those already working within the industry who lack formal qualifications and even pet owners who wish to increase their knowledge and skills.

2 Qualification structure

2.1 Structure

72 SCQF credit points (12 SQA unit credits) are required to achieve the National Certificate in Animal Care: An Introduction at SCQF level 4. This consists of 42 SCQF credit points from the mandatory section with a minimum of a further 30 SCQF credit points required from the optional section. There are a limited number of SCQF level 5 units included in the optional section but regardless of optional units selected more the half of the units will be at SCQF level 4, the overall level of the National Certificate.

Mandatory units: 42 SCQF credit points required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HH0E	44	Companion Animal Anatomical Landmarks	1	6	4
HG86	44	Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals	1	6	4
HG88	44	Animal Care: Environmental Enrichment	1	6	4
DV0C	10	Health Care for Small Animals: An Introduction	1	6	4
DV0D	10	Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction	1	6	4
DV0E	10	Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: An Introduction	1	6	4
DX0X	10	Animal Husbandry: An Introduction	1	6	4

Optional units: 30 SCQF credit points required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
F6T8	10	Animal Care: Record Keeping	0.5	3	4
HA1L	44	Animal Care: Establishing a Fresh Water	1	6	4
		Aquarium			
HA1M	44	Animal Care: Horses: An Introduction	1	6	4
HA1K	44	Animal Care: Basic Care of Reptiles	0.5	3	4
HA1P	44	Scottish Animal Wildlife	1	6	4
DX0Y	10	Animal Handling: An Introduction	0.5	3	4
F6SY	10	Animal Care: Breed Identification and	1	6	4
		Selection			
HG87	44	Animal Care: Terminology	1	6	4
HH21	44	Animal Care: Causes and Prevention of	1	6	4
		Disease in Animals			
HG89	44	Animal Care: Physiology of Mammals: An	1	6	4
		Introduction			
F6ST	11	Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog	1	6	5
		Training			
F6SV	11	Animal Care: Farm Livestock	1	6	5

Optional units: (cont)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HA1N	45	Animal Care: Rabbit Care	0.5	3	5
F6T1	10	Work Environment Maintenance	0.5	3	4
DX0W	10	Employability Skills for Land-based Industries	0.5	3	4
DX0V	10	Land-based Industries: An Introduction	1	6	4
D36H	10	Work Experience	1	6	4
F3GB	10	Communication	1	6	4
F3GF	10	Numeracy	1	6	4
F3GC	10	Information and Communication Technology	1	6	4
F3GD	10	Problem Solving	1	6	4
F3GE	10	Working with Others	1	6	4

3 Aims of the qualification

The principal aim of the National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 4 is to provide an entry level qualification for the animal care sector.

3.1 General aims of the qualification

- (a) To provide a nationally recognised formal qualification at SCQF level 4 for the animal care sector.
- (b) To provide a specific progression route to more advanced provision.
- (c) To develop the learner's employability skills.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

- 1 To develop practical skills in the care and handling of small animals.
- 2 To develop an understanding of appropriate environments for a range of animals.
- 3 To develop a basic understanding of the principles that underpin animal health.
- 4 To develop a safe approach to working with animals.
- 5 To develop a basic range of practical skills required in the animal care industry.
- 6 To allow a degree of specialization.
- 7 To allow opportunities for enhanced learning at SCQF level 5.
- 8 To develop the learner's Core Skills.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team as guidance only.

The NC in Animal Care: An Introduction is designed to be an introductory level qualification and as such there are no specific entry requirements. Learners may benefit from having previously achieved either Biology or Chemistry at SCQF level 4 or equivalent.

An interest in the subject and an affinity for animals would be an obvious benefit; an interview with prospective learners may help to establish their suitability.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information should be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	3	Written assessments, presentations, research
Numeracy	3	Simple calculations of quantities and dimensions
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	3	Internet research, presentations
Problem Solving	3	Adapting to changing circumstances, working with live animals
Working with Others	3	Group work

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skills, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Codo	Unit title				Spec	ific aims			
Code	Unit title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
HH0E 44	Animal Care: Anatomical			Х					
	Landmarks								
HG86 44	Animal Care: Basic First Aid for			Х	Х				
	Small Animals								
HG88 44	Animal Care: Environmental		X		Х				
	Enrichment								
DV0C 10	Health Care for Small Animals: An			X	Х				
	Introduction								
DV0D 10	Feeding and Watering Small	Χ			X	X			
	Animals: An Introduction								
DV0E 10	Accommodation and Handling of	Χ	X		X	X			
	Small Animals: An Introduction								
F6T8 10	Animal Care: Record Keeping					X			
HA1L 44	Animal Care: Establishing a Fresh				Х		Х		
	Water Aquarium								
HA1M 44	Animal Care: Horses: An				Х		Χ		
	Introduction								
HA1K 44	Animal Care: Basic Care of				Х		Х		
	Reptiles								
HA1P 44	Scottish Animal Wildlife						X		
F6T1 10	Work Environment Maintenance				X	X			
DX0V 10	Land-based Industries: An					Х			
	Introduction								
DX0Y 10	Animal Handling: An Introduction	Χ			X	X			
DX0X 10	Animal Husbandry: An Introduction		X		Х	Х			
F6SY 10	Animal Care: Breed Identification					Х			
	and Selection								
DX0W 10	Employability Skills for Land-based	<u>-</u>				Х			
	Industries								

Codo	Unit title				Spec	ific aims			
Code	Unit title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
HG87 44	Animal Care: Terminology			Х					
HH21 44	Animal Care: Causes and			Х					
	Prevention of Disease in Animals								
HG89 44	Animal Care: Physiology of			X		Х			
	Mammals: An Introduction								
F6ST 11	Animal Care: An Introduction to					Х	Х	Χ	
	Dog Training								
F6SV 11	Animal Care: Farm Livestock						Х	Х	
HA1N 45	Animal Care: Rabbit Care						Х	Х	
D36H 10	Work Experience	Х	Х		Х	Х			
F3GB 10	Communication								Х
F3GF 10	Numeracy								Х
F3GC 10	Information and Communication								X
	Technology								
F3GD 10	Problem Solving								Х
F3GE 10	Working with Others								Х

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards

Code	Unit title			l	National	l Occup	ational	Standar	d		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HH0E 44	Animal Care: Anatomical Landmarks										
HG86 44	Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals	Х	Х			Х	Х		Х		
HG88 44	Animal Care: Environmental Enrichment	Χ		Х			Х		Х	Х	
DV0C 10	Health Care for Small Animals: An Introduction	Х	Х			Х			Х		
DV0D 10	Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction	Х	Х		Х						
DV0E 10	Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: An Introduction	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х			
F6T8 10	Animal Care: Record Keeping			Х	Х				Х		
HA1L 44	Animal Care: Establishing a Fresh Water	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х			
	Aquarium										
HA1M 44	Animal Care: Horses: An Introduction	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	X	X	Χ			
HA1K 44	Animal Care: Basic Care of Reptiles	Χ	X	X	Χ	X	X	X			
HA1P 44	Scottish Animal Wildlife	Χ							X		
F6T1 10	Work Environment Maintenance	Χ		Χ				X			
DX0V 10	Land-based Industries: An Introduction										
DX0Y 10	Animal Handling: An Introduction	Χ	Χ			Χ	X	Χ			X
DX0X 10	Animal Husbandry: An Introduction	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	X	Χ			X
F6SY 10	Animal Care: Breed Identification and Selection								X		
DX0W 10	Employability Skills for Land-based Industries	Χ									
HG87 44	Animal Care: Terminology	Χ	Χ								
HH21 44	Animal Care: Causes and Prevention of	Χ	Х								
	Disease in Animals										
HG89 44	Animal Care: Physiology of Mammals: An	Χ	X								
	Introduction										
F6ST 11	Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog Training	Χ	X	X	X	X					X
F6SV 11	Animal Care: Farm Livestock	Χ	X	X		X		X			
HA1N 45	Animal Care: Rabbit Care	X	Χ	X		X		X			Χ

The National Occupational Standards listed below are drawn from the SVQ in Animal Care at SCQF level 5.

NOS

- 1 Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security (LANCS2) (SCQF level 5)
- 2 Maintain the Health and Welfare of Animals Under Supervision and Instruction (LANAnC10) (SCQF level 4)
- 3 Clean and Check Animal Accommodation Under Supervision and Instruction (LANAnC2) (SCQF level 4)
- 4 Provide Food and Water to Animals Under Supervision and Instruction (LANAnC3) (SCQF level 4)
- 5 Handle Animals Under Supervision and Instruction (LANAnC4)(SCQF level 4)
- 6 Move Animals Under Supervision and Instruction (LANAnC5) (SCQF level 4)
- 7 Clean the Animal Related Work Environment (LANAnC6) (SCQF level 4)
- 8 Observe and be Aware of the Behavior of Animals (LANAnC10) (SCQF level 7)
- 9 Provide Enrichment for Animals (LANAnC17) (SCQF level 7)
- 10 Provide Exercise Opportunities for Animals (LANAnC18) (SCQF level 6)

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification

		Con	nmunica	tion	Nume	eracy	IC	т	Pi	roblem Solvir	ıg	Working w	vith Others
Unit code	Unit title	Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
HH0E 44	Animal Care: Anatomical Landmarks		Х	Х			Х		Х			Х	
HG86 44	Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals								Х	Х	Х		
HG88 44	Animal Care: Environmental Enrichment	Х	Х	Х			Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
DV0C 10	Health Care for Small Animals: An Introduction	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	
DV0D 10	Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х		Х	
DV0E 10	Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: An Introduction								Х	Х		Х	
F6T8 10	Animal Care: Record Keeping	Х	Х		Х			Х	Х	Х	Х		
HA1L 44	Animal Care: Establishing a Fresh Water Aquarium	Х	Х	Х					SCQF 4	SCQF 4		Х	
HA1M 44	Animal Care: Horses: An Introduction	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х					
HA1K 44	Animal Care: Basic Care of Reptiles	Х	Х	Х					SCQF 4	SCQF 4			

		Cor	nmunica	ition	Num	eracy	IC	ст	Pi	roblem Solvi	ng	Working w	vith Others
Unit code	Unit title	Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
HA1P 44	Scottish Animal Wildlife	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х					
F6T1 10	Work Environment Maintenance	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х	Х		Х	
DX0V 10	Land-based Industries: An Introduction	Х	Х	Х					Х	Х		Х	
DX0Y 10	Animal Handling: An Introduction			Х								Х	
DX0X 10	Animal Husbandry: An Introduction			Х						Х		Х	
F6SY 10	Animal Care: Breed Identification and Selection	Х	Х	Х					Х			Х	
DX0W 10	Employability Skills for Land-based Industries	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х			Х	Х	
HG87 44	Animal Care: Terminology	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х					
HH21 44	Animal Care: Causes and Prevention of Disease in Animals	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	Х				
HG89 44	Animal Care: Physiology of Mammals: An Introduction	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
F6ST 11	Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog Training	Х	Х	Х					Х	Х	Х	Х	

		Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others		
Unit code	Unit title	Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
F6SV 11	Animal Care: Farm Livestock	Х	Х	Х	Х							Х	
HA1N 45	Animal Care: Rabbit Care	Х	Х	Х	Х					Х	Х		
D36H 10	Work Experience								Х	Х	Х	Х	Х

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Animal Care: Anatomical Landmarks	Identification	Identification	Practical	
Animal Care: Basic First Aid for Small Animals	Practical + Written/Oral	Written/oral + Practical	Written/oral	
Animal Care: Environmental Enrichment	Written/Oral	Written/Oral + Practical	Written/Oral	
Health Care for Small Animals: An Introduction	Practical	Practical	Practical	
Feeding and Watering Small Animals: An Introduction	Practical	Practical + Written/Oral	Practical + Written/Oral	
Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals: An Introduction	Practical	Practical + Written/Oral	Practical + Written/Oral	Practical
Animal Care: Record Keeping	Practical + Oral Questioning	Practical + Oral Questioning		
Animal Care: Establishing a Fresh Water Aquarium	Written/Oral	Written/Oral	Practical	
Animal Care: Horses: An Introduction	Identification	Written/Oral	Written/Oral	Written/Oral
Animal Care: Basic Care of Reptiles	Written/Oral	Practical		
Scottish Animal Wildlife	Identification	Written/Oral	Written/Oral	
Work Environment Maintenance	Identification + Practical	Practical		
Land-based Industries: An Introduction	Investigation			
Animal Handling: An Introduction	Practical	Practical		
Animal Husbandry: An Introduction	Identification	Practical	Practical	
Animal Care: Breed Identification and Selection	Identification	Identification	Identification	Written/Oral
Employability Skills for Land-based Industries	Practical	Evaluation	Written/Oral	
Animal Care: Terminology	Identification	Identification	Written/Oral	

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Animal Care: Causes and Prevention of Disease in Animals	Written/Oral	Written/Oral	Written/Oral	
Animal Care: Physiology of Mammals: An Introduction	Written/Oral	Practical		
Animal Care: An Introduction to Dog Training	Written/Oral	Written/Oral	Practical	
Animal Care: Farm Livestock	Identification	Practical	Practical	
Animal Care: Rabbit Care	Identification	Written/Oral	Practical	
Work Experience	Self-assessment	Report	Practical	Evaluation

The information provided above is a summary of the primary methods of assessing individual units; centres should take every opportunity to integrate assessments, not only within units but across units. In addition to reducing the burden of assessment on learners and centres alike it can help learners to develop a more rounded understanding of the subject by developing an appreciation of the relationships and interdependencies between different topics.

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

There is no prescribed sequence in which the units must be delivered, however there may be opportunities to build upon the learning of one unit in another. For example with the *Environmental Enrichment* unit there may be opportunities to further develop the knowledge and skills developed in the Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals units. There may also be opportunities to integrate the assessment of Outcome 4 of *Accommodation and Handling of Small Animals* 'Ensure small animals have sufficient opportunity to exercise' with the *Environmental Enrichment* unit.

Centres should seek to identify such opportunities when planning delivery as this will help to reduce the burden of assessment and help the learner to integrate the knowledge and skills developed across a range of relevant topics.

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- ♦ HN Graded Units
- Course and/or external assessments
- Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
- Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
- Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
- Where there are specific health and safety requirements
- Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
- Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website **www.sqa.org.uk**.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA Unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

The National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 4: An Introduction is designed to provide progression to the SCQF level 5 National Certificate in Animal Care and eventually to the SCQF level 7/8 HNC/HND in Animal Care. Learners employed within the animal care sector could also undertake the SVQ in Animal Care at SCQF level 5.

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

While some aspects of the National Certificate do not lend themselves to e-assessment, including practical activities where there could be a risk to the learners or animals, there will be many opportunities for e-assessment and the use of e-portfolios to generate and collate evidence. Specific opportunities are highlighted within the individual unit specifications.

6.4 Support materials

A **list of existing ASPs** is available to view on SQA's website.

6.5 Resource requirements

In addition to suitably qualified staff and suitable premises, centres will require access to a range of animals and associated equipment and accommodation. Suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all learners will be required as relevant to the practical tasks being carried out. Further details are included in the individual unit specifications. Clarification should be sought from an external verifier where there is any doubt over the suitability or availability of resources.

Given the vocational nature of this National Certificate and its emphasis on developing practical skills every opportunity should be taken to deliver and assess this award in a realistic working environment or a suitable simulation of one. This will allow learners to experience the environments, conditions and constraints they are likely to come across in employment. Wherever possible and practical, delivery and assessment should involve the use of live animals (where this does not negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of the animals or the health and safety of the learner and others). Opportunities for placements and work experience will also provide valuable experience of the real working environment.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will 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.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in SQA's Guide to Assessment (www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment).

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- learners may not be entered for the group award
- the group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- the group award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
- the group award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
- no new centres may be approved to offer the group award
- centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at **www.scqf.org.uk**.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and graded units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject unit: Subject units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- ♦ Centres should only enter learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version Number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9 General information for learners

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

The National Certificate (NC) in Animal Care: An Introduction at SCQF level 4 has been designed to provide you with an introduction to the animal care sector and to provide you with a range of practical skills and the knowledge that underpins those skills.

If you wish to pursue a career in the animal care sector, want to progress to higher level studies or simply want to learn more about animals then the NC Animal Care: An Introduction may be the qualification for you.

There are no specific entry requirements for this qualification although your centre may wish to interview you to establish your suitability for the NC.

The NC contains a mandatory section which will see you studying:

- ♦ Small Animal Basic First Aid
- ♦ Small Animal Health Care
- ♦ Small Animal Feeding and Watering
- ♦ Small Animal Accommodation and Handling
- Anatomical Landmarks
- ♦ Environmental Enrichment

There are also a range of optional units, your centre will advise on the most suitable Units to complete the award.

The NC contains a mix of practical and theoretical assessments which could take the form of extended response questions, multiple-choice, identification exercises, group work and presentations.

In addition to the animal care skills you will also have the opportunity to develop your Core Skills in *Communication, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.