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Group Award Specification for:

**HNC in Animal Care at SCQF level 7 and
HND in Animal Care at SCQF level 8**

Group Award Code: GP8G 15 and GP8H 16

Validation date: July 2019

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Contents

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 HNC and HND in Animal Care at SCQF level 7 and 8 respectively were revalidated in 2019 to ensure the qualifications remain up to date and fit for purpose. The revised HNC and HND Animal Care have been designed to suit a range of learners including those looking to progress to Higher Education or to move straight in to employment.

The qualifications are suitable for those wishing to work in a variety of Animal Care related sectors including:

♦ welfare
♦ husbandry
♦ grooming
♦ retail
♦ veterinary work
♦ laboratory work

♦ education
♦ zoo and safari parks
♦ voluntary organisations
♦ kennels
♦ trainers

In addition to progressing straight in to employment learners may also have the opportunity to continue their studies at degree level, for example progressing to Year 2 with the HNC or Year 3 with the HND of a range of degree programs.

2 Qualifications structure

The SCQF level 7 HNC in Animal Care consists of a mandatory section which requires 80 SCQF credit points and an optional section which requires 16 SCQF credit points. The majority of the mandatory units (64 SCQF credit points) are at SCQF level 7. The HNC contains an exam-based graded unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7.

The SCQF level 8 HND in Animal Care consists of a mandatory section which requires 152 SCQF credit points and an optional section which requires 88 SCQF credit points. The mandatory section contains 72 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8 including the 16 SCQF credit points project-based graded unit.

2.1 Structure

HNC Animal Care at SCQF level 7

Mandatory units 80 SCQF credit points (10 SQA unit credits) required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
F3TY	34	Animal Behaviour	1	8	7
J1BG	34	Animal Welfare	1	8	7
J1BF	34	Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	2	16	7
F3V3	34	Companion Animal Handling and First Aid	1	8	7
J57R*	35	Small Animal Health and Disease	2	16	8
DJ07	34	Small Animal Nutrition	1	8	7
J1BH	34	Small Animal Husbandry	1	8	7
F4CC	34	Animal Care: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7

*See 'History of Change' section

Optional section 16 SCQF credit points (2 SQA unit credits) required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J2H1	34	Specialist Animal Care: Small Mammals	1	8	7
J2GX	34	Small Animal Breeding	1	8	7
J2RF	34	DNA and Genetics*	1	8	7
J2H0	34	Animal Care: Career Planning	1	8	7
J2H2	34	Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation	1	8	7
HC47	35	Animal Care: Diagnostic Techniques	1	8	8
J2GW	34	Land-based Research and Academic Skills	1	8	7
F3TS	34	Animal Care Facility Management	1	8	7
F3TW	34	Animal Nursing: Theatre Practice	1	8	7
F3V4	34	Dog Training	1	8	7
DPIL	34	Equine Studies: Equine Health	1	8	7
DP1M	34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	1	8	7
D75X	34	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1	8	7

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4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
F3V5	34	Livestock Production Systems: Health and Welfare	1	8	7
F3VF	34	Specialist Animal Collections	1	8	7
F3VE	34	Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	1	8	7
DE3R	34	Personal Development Planning	1	8	7
J1BE	34	Animal Care: Wildlife	1	8	7
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7
F3TV	35	Animals in Society	1	8	8
HC45	34	Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	1	8	7
HC46	34	Specialist Animal Care: Avian	1	8	7
H7TK	34	Communication: Business Communication	1	8	7
H7MB	34	Communication: Practical Skills	1	8	7
HM5P	33	Marketing Skills for the Entrepreneur	1	8	6
J4RA*	34	Ecology and Ecosystems	1	8	7
J1BE	34	Animal Care: Wildlife	1	8	7
J1BK	34	Animal Care: Equine Care	1	8	7
F3VF	34	Specialist Animal Collections	1	8	7
F3VE	34	Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	1	8	7
HJ4W	34	Work Placement	1	8	7
J1BL	35	Animal Care: Small Animal Parasitology	2	16	8
H8XT	33*	Statistics for Science	1	8	6

*See 'History of Change' section

HND Animal Care at SCQF level 8

Mandatory units 160 SCQF credit points (20 SQA unit credits) required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
F3TY	34	Animal Behaviour	1	8	7
J1BG	34	Animal Welfare	1	8	7
J1BF	34	Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	2	16	7
F3V3	34	Companion Animal Handling and First Aid	1	8	7
DJ07	34	Small Animal Nutrition	1	8	7
J2GW	34	Land-based Research and Academic Skills	1	8	7
J2GX	34	Small Animal Breeding	1	8	7
J2RF	34	DNA and Genetics*	1	8	7
F4CC	34	Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
J1BH	34	Small Animal Husbandry	1	8	7
F3TV	35	Animals in Society	1	8	8
F3V0	35	Applied Companion Animal Behaviour	1	8	8
J57R*	35	Small Animal Health and Disease	2	16	8
J1BL	35	Animal Care: Small Animal Parasitology	2	16	8
J2GY	35	Animal Care: Ethics	1	8	8
J2HJ	35	Graded Unit 2	2	16	8

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Optional units 80 SCQF credit points (10 SQA unit credits) required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J2H1	34	Specialist Animal Care: Small Mammals	1	8	7
J2H0	34	Animal Care: Career Planning	1	8	7
J2H2	34	Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation	1	8	7
HC47	35	Animal Care: Diagnostic Techniques	1	8	8
J1BM	35	Animal Care: Ecosystems and Biodiversity	1	8	8
J4RA*	34	Ecology and Ecosystem	1	8	7
J1BJ	34	Animal Care: Microbiology	1	8	7
HC48	35	Animal Care: Drugs and Medicine	1	8	8
J1BE	34	Animal Care: Wildlife	1	8	7
J1BK	34	Animal Care: Equine Care	1	8	7
F3V4	34	Dog Training	1	8	7
F3TS	34	Animal Care: Facility Management	1	8	7
F3TW	34	Animal Nursing: Theatre Practice	1	8	7
F3V5	34	Livestock Production Systems: Health and Welfare	1	8	7
F3VF	34	Specialist Animal Collections	1	8	7
F3VE	34	Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	1	8	7
HC45	34	Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	1	8	7
HC46	34	Specialist Animal Care: Avian	1	8	7
D75X	34	Information Technology: Software Applications 1	1	8	7
DE3R	34	Personal Development Planning	1	8	7
H1F0	33	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	6
H7V4	34	Preparing to Start a Business	1	8	7
HJ4W	34	Work Placement	1	8	7
H7MB	34	Communication: Practical Skills	1	8	7
H7TK	34	Communication: Business Communication	1	8	7
HM5P	33	Marketing Skills for the Entrepreneur	1	8	6
F93J	33	Record Keeping and Accounting for Small Business	1	8	6
DP1L	34	Equine Studies: Equine Health	1	8	7
DP1M	34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	1	8	7
H8XT	33*	Statistics for Science 1	1	8	6
H8XV	34*	Statistics for Science 2	1	8	7
J4RL	35*	Data Collection and Handling Methods	1	8	8
DJ1K	34*	Cell Biology: Theory and Practice	1	8	7

*See 'History of Change' section

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3   Aims of the qualifications

The principal aim of the HNC and HND in Animal Care is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills required to progress within the animal care sector either through employment or further study.

3.1   General aims of the qualifications

The general aims of the HNC and HND are to:

♦   Develop Core Skills and other transferable skills
♦   Develop the ability to work independently and take responsibility for one's own learning
♦   Develop the ability to apply knowledge to practical situations
♦   Develop a range of practical skills
♦   Enable progression within the SCQF

3.2   Specific aims of the qualifications

The specific aims of the HNC are to:

1   Develop knowledge and understanding of animals
2   Develop an understanding of animal anatomy, health and nutrition
3   Develop knowledge and skills in animal care and husbandry
4   Prepare learners to work within the animal industry at a team leader/supervisor level
5   Develop an understanding of the context in which the animal care industry operates
6   Develop an understanding of the links between animal care sectors
7   Develop an appreciation of the importance of health and safety

The specific aims of the HND are, in addition to the HNC specific aims, to:

8   Prepare learners to work at a management level in the animal care industry
9   Develop an understanding of animal breeding and genetics
10   Develop an understanding of the links between animals and society
11   Develop an understanding of animal behaviour
12   Develop an understanding of parasitology
13   Develop an understanding of ethical issues within animal care
14   Develop a range of specialist animal care knowledge and skills

3.3   Graded units

The HNC in Animal Care contains an exam-based graded unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7. The three hour closed-book exam consists of a one hour part where the learner is required to answer five questions and a two hour part where the learner is required to produce two essays from a choice of three questions. The marks for both sections are combined to give the overall graded.

The HND, in addition to the HNC graded unit, also contains a case study project-based graded unit of 16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8. The HND graded unit requires the learner to respond to a case study based on a contemporary animal care ethical issue.

4   Recommended entry to the qualifications

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.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

♦ NC Animal Care at SCQF level 5
♦ Two National Courses at SCQF level 6
♦ NPA in Zoo Animal Behaviour and Wildlife at SCQF level 6

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 would 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	6	Written and oral presentations and reports
Numeracy	6	Nutritional calculations, presenting graphical data
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	6	Research, recording data, production of reports
Problem Solving	6	Adapting to changes circumstances, working with animals
Working with Others	6	Working as part of a small team

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 skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

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5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Code	Unit title	Aims 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
F3TY 34	Animal Behaviour	X										X		X	
J1BG 34	Animal Welfare	X			X							X		X	
J1BF 34	Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	X	X												
F3V3 34	Companion Animal Handling and First Aid	X	X		X			X				X		X	
DJ07 34	Small Animal Nutrition	X	X									X			
J2GW 34	Landbased Research and Academic Skills				X				X						
J2GX 34	Small Animal Breeding	X								X					
H929 34	DNA and Genetics	X								X					X
J1BH 34	Small Animal Husbandry	X		X				X				X		X	
F3TV 35	Animals in Society	X			X	X			X		X			X	
F3V0 35	Applied Companion Animal Behaviour	X		X	X			X	X			X			
J57R 35*	Small Animal Health and Disease	X	X					X	X				X		
J1BL 35	Animal Care: Small Animal Parasitology	X	X					X	X				X		X
J2GY 35	Animal Care: Ethics	X		X	X	X			X		X	X		X	X
J2H1 34	Specialist Animal Care: Small Mammals	X		X								X			X
J2H0 34	Animal Care: Career Planning				X	X	X		X						
J2H2 34	Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation	X		X				X	X		X	X			X
HC47 35	Animal Care: Diagnostic Techniques	X	X					X	X				X		X
J1BM 35	Animal Care: Ecosystems and Biodiversity	X							X	X	X	X		X	X
J4RA 34*	Ecology and Ecosystem	X										X		X	X
J1BJ 34	Animal Care: Microbiology	X	X										X		X
HC48 35	Animal Care: Drugs and Medicine	X	X						X				X	X	
J1BE 34	Animal Care: Wildlife	X		X				X				X		X	X
J1BK 34	Animal Care: Equine Care	X		X				X							X
F3V4 34	Dog Training	X						X							
F3TS 34	Animal Care: Facility Management			X	X	X		X							
F3TW 34	Animal Nursing: Theatre Practice	X													X
F3V5 34	Livestock Production Systems: Health and Welfare	X	X	X				X						X	X
F3VF 34	Specialist Animal Collections	X		X										X	X

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Code	Unit title	Aims													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
F3VE 34	Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	X		X				X							X
HC45 34	Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	X		X				X							X
HC46 34	Specialist Animal Care: Avian	X		X				X							X
D75X 34	Information Technology: Software Applications 1	X													
DE3R 34	Personal Development Planning				X										
H1F0 33	Creating a Culture of Customer Care				X										
H7V4 34	Preparing to Start a Business				X										
HJ4W 34	Work Placement				X										
H7TK 34	Communication: Business Communication				X										
HM5P 33	Marketing Skills for the Entrepreneur				X	X									
F93J 33	Record Keeping and Accounting for Small Business				X										
DP1L 34	Equine Studies: Equine Health	X	X					X							
DP1M 34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	X	X					X							

1 Develop knowledge and understanding of animals
2 Develop an understanding of animal anatomy, health and nutrition
3 Develop knowledge and skills in animal care and husbandry
4 Prepare learners to work within the animal industry at a team leader/supervisor level
5 Develop an understanding of the context in which the animal care industry operates
6 Develop an understanding of the links between animal care sectors
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8 Prepare learners to work at a management level in the animal care industry
9 Develop an understanding of animal breeding and genetics
10 Develop an understanding of the links between animals and society
11 Develop an understanding of animal behaviour
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5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS)

Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards																					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
F3TY 34	Animal Behaviour	X	X					X	X														
J1BG 34	Animal Welfare	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X					
J1BF 34	Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology			X										X		X							
F3V3 34	Companion Animal Handling and First Aid	X	X	X		X	X						X	X		X							
DJ07 34	Small Animal Nutrition	X		X	X								X			X		X					
J2GX 34	Small Animal Breeding	X								X	X	X											
H929 34	DNA and Genetics								X														
J1BH 34	Small Animal Husbandry	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X					
F3TV 35	Animals in Society								X				X										
F3V0 35	Applied Companion Animal Behaviour	X	X	X		X		X	X														
J57R 35*	Small Animal Health and Disease	X		X									X	X		X		X					
J1BL 35	Animal Care: Small Animal Parasitology	X		X										X		X							
J2GY 35	Animal Care: Ethics					X	X	X								X							
J2H1 34	Specialist Animal Care: Small Mammals	X		X	X	X		X	X							X							
J2H0 34	Animal Care: Career Planning																						
J2H2 34	Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X			X			
HC47 35	Animal Care: Diagnostic Techniques	X		X		X										X							
J1BM 35	Animal Care: Ecosystems and Biodiversity	X	X					X															
J4RA 34*	Ecology and Ecosystem		X																				
J1BJ 34	Animal Care: Microbiology	X		X																			
HC48 35	Animal Care: Drugs and Medicine	X		X												X							
J1BE 34	Animal Care: Wildlife	X	X	X	X	X		X							X	X				X			
J1BK 34	Animal Care: Equine Care	X	X	X	X	X		X	X							X							
F3V4 34	Dog Training	X	X	X		X													X		X		

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Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards																					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
F3TS 34	Animal Care: Facility Management	X	X				X	X	X													X	X	
F3TW 34	Animal Nursing: Theatre Practice	X		X		X																		
F3V5 34	Livestock Production Systems: Health and Welfare	X	X	X		X	X	X									X							
F3VF 34	Specialist Animal Collections	X	X	X		X		X	X								X				X			
F3VE 34	Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	X	X	X		X		X	X								X							
HC45 34	Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	X	X	X		X		X	X								X							X
HC46 34	Specialist Animal Care: Avian	X	X	X		X		X	X								X							
DP1L 34	Equine Studies: Equine Health	X	X	X			X	X									X							
DP1M 34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	X	X	X	X																			

1   Promote, Monitor and Maintain Health, Safety and Security
2   Observe and Be Aware of the Behaviour of Animals
3   Maintain the Health and Welfare of Animals
4   Provide Food and Water to Animals
5   Handle and Restrain Animals
6   Plan and Control the Movement of Animals
7   Provide and Manage Accommodation for Animals
8   Provide Enrichment for Animals
9   Facilitate Pregnancy in Animals
10 Care for Animals During Gestation and Parturition
11 Care for Offspring and Juvenile Animals
12 Provide Information to Individuals and Groups on How to Promote the Health and Well-being of Animals

13 Provide First Aid to Animals
14 Release Animals into Their Natural Habitat
15 Plan, Manage and Evaluate the Health and Welfare of Animals
16 Plan and Monitor Animal Accommodation
17 Plan and Monitor Animal Diet and Nutrition
18 Implement Training Programmes for Animals
19 Plan and Monitor the Establishment and Management of Animal Populations
20 Plan, Manage and Evaluate the Provision of Pet Care Services
21 Provide and Manage Accommodation for Animal Boarding Services
22 Set Up and Maintain an Aquarium

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5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualifications

Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		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
F3TY 34	Animal Behaviour	X	X	X									
J1BG 34	Animal Welfare	X	X	X			X	X	SCQF 5	X			
J1BF 34	Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	X	X	X									
F3V3 34	Companion Animal Handling and First Aid	X	X	X					X	X			
DJ07 34	Small Animal Nutrition	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
J2GX 34	Small Animal Breeding	X	X	X	X		X						
H929 34	DNA and Genetics				X	X	X	X					
J1BH 34	Small Animal Husbandry	X	X	X	X		X		X	SCQF 6		X	
F3TV 35	Animals in Society	X	X	X					X		X		
F3V0 35	Applied Companion Animal Behaviour	X	X	X					X	X			
J57R 35*	Small Animal Health and Disease	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
J1BL 35	Animal Care: Small Animal Parasitology	X	X	X			X	X					
J2GY 35	Animal Care: Ethics	X	X	X			X		X		X		
J2H1 34	Specialist Animal Care: Small Mammals												
J2H0 34	Animal Care: Career Planning												
J2H2 34	Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation												
HC47 35	Animal Care: Diagnostic Techniques	X	X	X					X	X	X		

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Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		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
J1BM 35	Animal Care: Ecosystems and Biodiversity	X	X	X	X		X		SCQF 6			X	
J4RA 34*	Ecology and Ecosystem						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J1BJ 34	Animal Care: Microbiology				X	X	X	X					
HC48 35	Animal Care: Drugs and Medicine	X	X	X	X								
J1BE 34	Animal Care: Wildlife	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	
J1BK 34	Animal Care: Equine Care	X	X	X	X	X							
F3V4 34	Dog Training	X	X	X					X	X	X		
F3TS 34	Animal Care: Facility Management	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		
F3TW 34	Animal Nursing: Theatre Practice	X	X	X									
F3V5 34	Livestock Production Systems: Health and Welfare	X	X	X								X	
F3VF 34	Specialist Animal Collections	X	X	X								X	
F3VE 34	Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	X	X	X					X	X	X		
HC45 34	Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	
HC46 34	Specialist Animal Care: Avian	X	X	X								X	
DP1L 34	Equine Studies: Equine Health	X	X	X					X	X	X		
DP1M 34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		

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5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualifications

Unit	Assessment				
	Outcome 1	**Outcome 2**	**Outcome 3**	**Outcome 4**	**Outcome 5**
Animal Behaviour	Restricted response	Report	Report	Report	
Animal Welfare	Extended response questions	Report	Extended response questions		
Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	Structured questions	Structured/short answer questions	Restricted response questions		
Companion Animal Handling and First Aid	Practical	Extended response questions		Practical	
Small Animal Nutrition	Structured questions				
Small Animal Breeding	Extended response questions	Structured questions	Structured questions	Structured questions	
DNA and Genetics	Holistic closed-book assessment				
Small Animal Husbandry	Practical	Practical	Practical		
Animals in Society	Investigation	Investigation	Case study		
Applied Companion Animal Behaviour	Restricted response	Case study			
Small Animal Health and Disease	Practical	Structured questions			
Animal Care: Small Animal Parasitology	Investigation				Practical
Animal Care: Ethics	Extended response questions	Investigation			
Specialist Animal Care: Small Mammals	Short answer questions and practical	Short answer questions	Short answer questions		
Animal Care: Career Planning	Extended response questions	Investigation	Practical	Self-evaluation	
Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation	Short answer questions	Short answer questions	Extended response questions		
Animal Care: Diagnostic Techniques	Structured questions			Practical	

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Unit	Assessment				
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Animal Care: Ecosystems and Biodiversity	Extended response questions	Extended response questions	Practical investigation		
Ecology and Ecosystem	Short answer questions	Report	Practical		
Animal Care: Microbiology	Short answer questions	Short answer questions	Practical and report		
Animal Care: Drugs and Medicine	Short answer questions	Short answer questions	Short answer questions	Investigation	
Animal Care: Wildlife	Short answer questions	Report			
Animal Care: Equine Care	Short answer/ restricted response questions	Restricted response questions/case study	Short answer/ restricted response questions		
Dog Training	Structured questions	Practical	Case study	Assignment	
Animal Care: Facility Management	Short answer questions	Case study	Investigation		
Animal Nursing: Theatre Practice	Short answer questions	Practical	Report		
Livestock Production Systems: Health and Welfare	Report		Checklist	Practical	
Specialist Animal Collections	Report				
Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	Short answer questions	Assignment	Report		
Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	Short answer questions	Short answer questions and practical	Report		
Specialist Animal Care: Avian	Short answer questions	Short answer questions/practical	Short answer questions		
Equine Studies: Equine Health	Short answer/restricted response questions		Investigation		
Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	Short answer/restricted response questions		Investigation		

Group Award Specification: HNC in Animal Care at SCQF level 7 (GP8G 15) and
HND in Animal Care at SCQF level 8 (GP8H 16)

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6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

The revised HNC and HND in Animal Care have been developed for two main purposes, to allow learners to develop the knowledge and skills required to work effectively in a range of Animal Care careers and to provide the underpinning knowledge and experience required to progress to a range of related degree programs. The delivery and assessment of the HNC/D should, as far as possible, reflect this, with emphasis on both practical assessments and the development of a range of more academic skills.

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

There is no prescribed sequence for delivery of units, although centres should try to deliver units that form part of the HNC or HND Graded Units as early as possible to allow learners the most time to prepare.

Individual units contain the required knowledge and skills if delivered on a stand-alone basis, as a result across an overall group award there is likely to be duplication of content. Centres delivering the HNC and/or HND should minimise duplication of assessment. Every effort should be made to identify cross-over between outcomes and units and plan assessments to take account of this. The use of projects and/or a portfolio approach to producing evidence can be helpful in reducing over-assessment and can help learners to integrate the knowledge and skills they have developed.

While not intended to be exhaustive the table below identifies opportunities for integration of assessment across units:

Unit title	Unit title
Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	Companion Animal Handling and First Aid
Animal Care: Career Planning	Work Placement
Land-based Research and Academic Skills	Animal Care Ethics
Applied Companion Animal Behaviour	Dog Training
Specialist Animal Care: Small Mammals	Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology Companion Animal Handling and First Aid
Animals in Society	Animal Care Ethics

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.

Group Award Specification: HNC in Animal Care at SCQF level 7 (GP8G 15) and
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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

On completion of the HNC in Animal Care at SCQF level 7 learners may have the opportunity to progress to:

♦ HND Animal Care at SCQF level 8
♦ Year 2 of a range of degree programs

On completion of the HND in Animal Care at SCQF level 8 learners may have the opportunity to progress to:

♦ Year 3 of a Range of Degree programs

6.2.2 Credit transfer

New unit	Code	Old unit	Code
Animal Welfare	J1BG 34	Animal Welfare	F3TX 34
Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	J1BF 34	Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	F3V1 34
Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	HC45 34	Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish	F3VC 34
Specialist Animal Care: Avian	HC46 34	Specialist Animal Care: Avian	F3VA 34
Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation	J2H2 34	Wildlife Husbandry and Rehabilitation	DJ0M 34

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

While there is a focus on developing practical skills there will be opportunities for e-assessment, for example:

Unit	Outcome(s)	Possible assessment
Specialist Animal Care: Reptiles and Amphibians	Outcome 1	Identification tests
Animal Care Facility Management	Outcome 4	Creation of booking and recording system
Specialist Animal Care: Ornamental Fish Specialist Animal Care: Avian	Outcome 1	Labeling of diagrams
Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology	All Outcomes	Identification tests and labeling of diagrams

6.4 Support materials

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

6.5 Resource requirements

♦ Access to a range of suitable equipment, including relevant Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
♦ Access to a range of suitable facilities
♦ Access to wide range of companion animals
♦ A range of guest speakers and opportunities for visits, for example SSPCA, zoos, rescue charities, etc

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 assessments 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)

Graded unit: Graded units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the units of the group award. Their purpose is to add value to the group award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

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
07	**Additional Unit:** Cell Biology: Theory and Practice – SCQF 7 (DJ1K 34) (1.0) has been added to Optional Group of the HND to allow further flexibility in delivery and assessment.	12/01/24
06	**Additional Unit:** Unit 'Data Collection and Handling Methods' (J4RL 35) included within the Optional section of the HND to allow better articulation to Degree level programs.	21/07/23
05	**Additional Unit:** H8XV 34 Statistics for Science 2 has been added to the optional section of the HND Framework	17/06/22
04	**Revision of Unit:** DJ09 35 Small Animal Health and Disease has been replaced by J57R 35 Small Animal Health and Disease. DJ09 35 will finish on 31/07/2023. **Revision of Unit:** H93A 34 Ecology and Ecosystems has been replaced by J4RA 34 Ecology and Ecosystems. H93A 34 will finish on 31/07/2022.	26/10/21
03	**Additional Unit:** H8XT 33 Statistics for Science 1 has been added to the optional section for both HNC/HND frameworks	10/02/20
02	**Revision of Unit:** H929 34 DNA and Genetics has been replaced by J2RF 34 DNA and Genetics. H929 34 will finish on 31/07/2022	17/09/19

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 HNC and HND in Animal Care are designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to work in a range of roles in the animal care industry or to progress to further studies at degree level.

The HNC will cover:

- anatomy and physiology
- behaviour
- welfare
- handling and first aid

- health and disease
- nutrition
- husbandry

It also has an exam-based graded unit which will allow you to demonstrate your ability to integrate the knowledge you have developed across the subjects listed above.

In addition to the HNC content, the HND will also cover:

- research and academic skills
- breeding
- genetics
- animals in society

- ethics
- applied behavior
- parasitology

The HND also contains a project-based graded unit that will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have developed to a contemporary animal care issue.

In addition to the content described above there is a range of optional units that will allow you to develop more specialist knowledge and skills.

Entry to the HNC is at the discretion of the delivering centre however it would be beneficial if you had completed the NC in Animal Care at SCQF level 5 or equivalent.