Carry out emergency euthanasia of large animals

Level 5  
Credits 3

Purpose  People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the purpose, situations, and legal responsibilities when carrying out emergency humane euthanasia of large animals; assess methods of euthanasia, and select a method appropriate to the animal species; and prepare equipment, carry out humane euthanasia, and maintain equipment for euthanasia.

This unit standard is for inspectors warranted under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and Dog Control Act 1996, abattoir operators, stock truck operators, people in rural or semi-urban situations, and dog rangers under the Impounding Act 1955, where veterinary assistance is not available.

Subfield  Animal Care and Handling
Domain  Animal Handling
Status  Registered
Status date  24 September 1997
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Entry information  Open.
Accreditation  Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA, industry and teaching professional in the same field from another provider.

Standard setting body (SSB)  Primary Industry Training Organisation

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0228
This AMAP can be accessed at http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do.

Special notes
1 Range large animals may include – horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, deer.
2 For credit, evidence must be in accordance with the statutory and industry requirements contained in the following documents.


3 People using firearms for emergency euthanasia should be aware of the provisions of the Arms Act 1983, sections 45, 48, and 49.

4 **Humane euthanasia** is defined as the process of inducing a painless death. The methods used for euthanasia must either kill the animal instantaneously or humanely render the animal unconscious and kill it before consciousness is regained. The application of any method must be such as to minimise the impact of the procedure on the welfare of the animal.

**Elements and performance criteria**

**Element 1**

Demonstrate knowledge of the purpose, situations, and legal responsibilities when carrying out emergency humane euthanasia of large animals.

**Performance criteria**

1.1 Description of emergency euthanasia identifies the purpose of euthanasia.

1.2 Description of emergency euthanasia identifies the situations where the procedure may be required to be carried out.

Range road accidents, injuries in transit; injuries in saleyards, yards or meat plant; injuries and severe illness on farm; neglect; injuries at race meetings, agricultural and pastoral shows.

1.3 Description of emergency euthanasia identifies the legal responsibilities of the person carrying out the procedure.
Element 2

Assess methods of euthanasia, and select a method appropriate to the animal species.

Range methods – physical destruction of the brain (concussive blow or shooting by shotgun, rifle, or captive bolt pistol); stopping the blood supply to the brain (cutting major vessels).

Performance criteria

2.1 Assessment of methods of euthanasia identifies the causes, signs, and effects of each method.

2.2 Assessment of methods of euthanasia identifies the mode of action and conditions of use of each method.

2.3 Method of euthanasia assessed is appropriate for animal species, the situation, and for the purpose of achieving humane euthanasia.

Element 3

Prepare equipment, carry out humane euthanasia, and maintain equipment for euthanasia.

Performance criteria

3.1 Preparation of equipment is in accordance with legislative requirements.

Range may include but is not limited to – knife, thoracic stick, blunt instrument, shotgun, rifle, captive bolt pistol.

3.2 Emergency euthanasia is carried out in a manner which is humane, safe for operator and other people or animals and in accordance with legislative requirements, NAWAC Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock and the NZVA Guidelines for Euthanasia.

3.3 Maintenance of equipment is in accordance with legislative requirements, and in a manner which ensures that it is in working order before and after use, and remains in an operative state.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.
Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Primary Industry Training Organisation standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.