

Demonstrate knowledge of communication systems of dogs used in detection of biosecurity risk goods

Level 4

Credits 6

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the basic needs of dogs and how they relate to scent detection training; describe the sensory systems that dogs possess and the factors that affect those systems; describe the communication systems used by dogs and the significance of those systems for the detection of biosecurity risk goods; recognise the visual communication used by dogs in scent detection; recognise canine tactile communication; recognise olfactory behaviours of dogs and their function; recognise the auditory communications of dogs and their function; and demonstrate knowledge of canine aggression.

Subfield Biosecurity

Domain Border Quarantine

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Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

Standard setting body (SSB) Forest Industries Training and Education Council (FITEC)

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0173

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Special notes

- 1 The *training manual* refers to the *MAF Quarantine Detector Dog Programme Training Manual*, produced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Quarantine Service (MAFQS). The manual is a restricted document available only to staff of MAFQS warranted or authorised under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

- 2 *Risk goods* are defined in the Biosecurity Act 1993 as ‘any organism, organic material, or other thing, or substance, that, (by reason of its nature, origin, or other relevant factors) it is reasonable to suspect constitutes, harbours, or contains an organism that may cause unwanted harm to natural and physical resources or human health in New Zealand; or interfere with the diagnosis, management, or treatment, in New Zealand of pests or unwanted organisms.’
- 3 Legislation applying to this unit standard includes the Biosecurity Act 1993, Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1968, Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, Conservation Act 1987, Animal Welfare Act 1999, Dog Control Act 1996, and their subsequent amendments.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the basic needs of dogs and how they relate to scent detection training.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The basic needs of dogs are described in accordance with the training manual.
Range oxygen, food, water, prey kill, social needs, pain avoidance.
- 1.2 The basic needs of dogs are described in terms of how they can be utilised in training for detection of risk goods in accordance with the training manual.

Element 2

Describe the sensory systems that dogs possess and the factors that affect those systems.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 The sensory systems that dogs possess are described in accordance with the training manual.
Range smell, hearing, vision, tactility, taste, internal receptors, pressure, pain, movement/proprioception, temperature, equilibrium, vibration.
- 2.2 Factors that may affect the sensory systems of a dog are described in accordance with the training manual.
Range just noticeable differences, saturation point, threshold shifts, absolute threshold, recovery time, age, disease, external or environmental influences.

Element 3

Describe the communication systems used by dogs and the significance of those systems for the detection of biosecurity risk goods.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 The types of communication systems used by dogs are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range visual, tactile, olfactory, auditory.
- 3.2 The significance of the communication systems used by dogs working in scent detection of quarantine risk goods is explained in accordance with the training manual.

Element 4

Recognise the visual communication used by dogs in scent detection.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 The types of visual communication used by dogs are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range eye contact, ear position, mouth and lips, body language, tail movement.
- 4.2 The importance of eye contact used by dogs is described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range agonistic, dominance, submission.
- 4.3 Basic ear positions as used by dogs in communications are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range fear, attention, aggression, confusion.
- 4.4 Mouth and lips expressions are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range submission, play soliciting, alertness, confusion.
- 4.5 Body language is described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range stress, fear, submission, playfulness, relaxed, dominance, aggression.
- 4.6 Tail positions are described in accordance with the training manual.

- 4.7 Indications of alertness in dogs working in scent detection of biosecurity risk goods are described in accordance with the training manual.
- 4.8 Indications of inattention in dogs working in scent detection of biosecurity risk goods are described in accordance with the training manual.

Element 5

Recognise canine tactile communication.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 The types of canine tactile communication are described in accordance with the training manual.
- 5.2 The T and L positions and their significance are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range T position – dominance, head-on approach, head and neck over the other's shoulders, walking forward and pushing.
L position – submission, licking, forelimb pawing, upward pushing with the nose or muzzle.

Element 6

Recognise olfactory behaviours of dogs and their function.

Performance criteria

- 6.1 The olfactory sensitivity of dogs is described in terms of the dog's ability to discriminate between mixtures of odours, in accordance with the training manual.
- 6.2 The importance of pheromones in communication between individual dogs is described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range identification, sexual attraction, courtship, familiarisation, alarm or warning.
- 6.3 Sources of pheromones from dogs are described in accordance with the training manual.

Element 7

Recognise the auditory communications of dogs and their function.

Performance criteria

- 7.1 The sensitivity of dogs to auditory communication is described in accordance with the training manual.

- 7.2 The types of auditory communication of adult dogs are described in accordance with the training manual.
- 7.3 The causes of barking in dogs are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range aggression, contact seeking, attention seeking, boredom.

Element 8

Demonstrate knowledge of canine aggression.

Performance criteria

- 8.1 The primary objectives of canine aggression are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range winning of space, defence of individual or offspring, access to resources.
- 8.2 The major causes contributing to aggression are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range genetics, experience, present environment.
- 8.3 Aggression is analysed in accordance with the training manual.
- Range history, observation, elimination of physical or medical causes.
- 8.4 The main classifications of aggression are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range dominance, fear induced, idiopathic, instrumental/learned, intermale, irritable, maternal, predatory, sexual, territorial.
- 8.5 Methods used to modify aggression are described in accordance with the training manual.
- Range reward, extinction, systematic desensitisation, flooding, generalisation, punishment, medical options.
- 8.6 The principles to be considered in using punishment for modification of aggression are described in accordance with the training manual.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by the Qualifications Authority, 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 the Qualifications Authority 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 Forest Industries Training and Education Council feedback@fitec.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.