

Monitor health and provide husbandry for reptiles and amphibians

Level 2

Credits 2

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify reptiles and amphibians; handle a reptile and an amphibian; feed and water a reptile and an amphibian; demonstrate knowledge of health and ill health in reptiles and amphibians, and appropriate responses; and describe reptile and amphibian aquaria and equipment.

Subfield Animal Care and Handling

Domain Animal Care

Status Registered

Status date 26 July 2005

Date version published 25 June 2007

Planned review date 31 July 2009

Entry information Open.

Replacement information This unit standard and unit standard 21382 replaced unit standard 5150.

Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

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 For credit, evidence must be in accordance with the statutory and industry requirements contained in the following documents.
Relevant and current National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Welfare and Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards, available at <http://www.maf.govt.nz>, under animal welfare.
Relevant New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) standards, available from NZVA, PO Box 11-212, Manners Street, Wellington (<http://www.vets.org.nz>), including the current version of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nurses and Animal Care*.
Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Practical evidence requirements must include evidence of ongoing animal care. For this unit standard, the candidate is expected to be involved in the care of a reptile or an amphibian over the course of at least two consecutive days.
- 3 The Department of Conservation holds information about individual species native to New Zealand, and can be contacted at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/>. It is illegal to keep protected New Zealand species without a permit.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Identify reptiles, and amphibians.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Reptiles and amphibians are identified in terms of common name for species.

Range	may include but is not limited to reptiles – red eared terrapin, tuatara, gecko species, skink species; amphibians – axolotl, Bell frog species, New Zealand native frog species; evidence of two species for each of reptiles and amphibians is required.
-------	---
- 1.2 Animals are distinguished from others of a similar species in terms of individual characteristics.

Range	may include but is not limited to – colour, common species name, variety, sex, distinguishing features; evidence of at least one of each species is required.
-------	--

Element 2

Handle a reptile and an amphibian.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Animal is caught and/or restrained, as appropriate to the species, and without injury to the handler or animal, and transported from one location to another.

Element 3

Feed and water a reptile and an amphibian.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Food is selected to supply a balanced and complete diet and animal is fed and watered according to individual and species requirements.
- 3.2 Feeding equipment is maintained in a clean and hygienic state.

Element 4

Demonstrate knowledge of health and ill health in reptiles and amphibians, and appropriate responses.

Range one reptile species, one amphibian species.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Normal biological data appropriate to species is identified.
- 4.2 Normal health and behaviour are described in terms of their signs.
- Range movement, physical appearance, seasonal variation, general demeanour, appetite.
- 4.3 Normal reproductive behaviour for reptiles and amphibians is identified and described according to breeding patterns.
- 4.4 Abnormal health and behaviour are described in terms of their signs, and appropriate action to be taken is identified.
- Range movement, physical appearance, general demeanour, appetite, parasites, fungal infection, bacterial infection.
- 4.5 Situations requiring isolation of reptiles and amphibians are identified.

Element 5

Describe reptile and amphibian aquaria and equipment.

Performance criteria

5.1 Features of ideal aquaria are described according to species.

Range may include but is not limited to – materials, site, size, types of substrate, aquarium cover, water area and depth, water pump, water filter, UV and fluorescent lighting, aquarium thermometer, heat pad, heater/thermostat, environmental enrichment.

5.2 Environmental factors requiring monitoring are described according to species requirements.

Range may include but is not limited to – water testing, water quality and changes, aquarium cleaning, temperature, humidity, lighting, ventilation.

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.