

<b>Title</b>	<b>Describe cat feeding, health, and housing, and carry out routine health procedures</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to describe: food components, and nutritional requirements, diets, and feeding of cats; health and variations to normal health and behaviour in cats, the oestrous cycle, and situations requiring isolation; infectious diseases and parasites of cats, and their prevention and control programmes.</p> <p>They are also able to describe and carry out, routine health procedures for a cat; and, identify and describe ideal features of commercial cat housing.</p>
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<b>Classification</b>	Animal Care and Handling > Animal Care
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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## Guidance Information

1 Legislation, standards, and codes relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to:

- Animal Welfare Act 1999;
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996;
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
- Resource Management Act 1991;
- New Zealand Standard NZS 4304:2002 *Management of Healthcare Waste*, available at <https://www.standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-43042002/>;
- Relevant New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) standards, available at <https://www.nzva.org.nz/>;
- Relevant National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Welfare, available at [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz), under Animal Welfare;
- Relevant National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) guidelines at [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz) under Animal Welfare; and any subsequent amendments.

2 Definitions

An *animal facility* refers to a facility such as an animal boarding facility, a veterinary clinic, a pet shop, or an animal welfare facility.

*Workplace procedures* refer to the documented procedures for animal care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer of the animal facility and must be consistent with equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

- 3 For the purposes of assessment:
- evidence must be supplied from an animal facility or other commercial organisation.
  - evidence must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Describe food components, and nutritional requirements, diets, and feeding of cats.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe components of food in terms of their sources and functions in the body.
- Range protein, carbohydrates, fats, water;  
vitamins – A, B, C, D, E, K;  
amino acids – taurine;  
minerals – calcium, phosphorous, iron.
- 1.2 Describe nutritional requirements of cats in terms of the variations due to life stages and body condition and breed.
- Range pre-weaning, at weaning, kitten, adult, senior; pregnancy, lactation.
- 1.3 Describe cat feed types in terms of their advantages and disadvantages, and storage requirements.
- Range wet, dry, raw;  
evidence of at least two advantages and two disadvantages is required.
- 1.4 Describe the potential impacts of an unbalanced diet on cat health.
- Range includes but is not limited to – all lean meat, vegetarian, fish, liver.
- 1.5 Describe types and uses of feeding and watering equipment for cats.
- Range evidence of at least two types is required.

### Outcome 2

Describe health and variations to normal health and behaviour in cats, the oestrous cycle, and situations requiring isolation.

**Performance criteria**

2.1 Describe the clinical signs of health and variations to normal health and behaviour.

Range evidence of at least six clinical signs is required.

2.2 Describe the physical signs and behavioural changes in the oestrus cycle.

Range evidence of at least two physical signs or behavioural changes is required.

2.3 Describe the clinical signs requiring isolation of cats.

Range evidence of at least two clinical signs is required.

**Outcome 3**

Describe and carry out routine health procedures for a cat.

**Performance criteria**

3.1 Describe the ideal physical condition of the cat.

Range condition of – body, skin, coat, eyes, ears, mouth, nose.

3.2 Describe the procedures for clipping claws.

3.3 Carry out routine health procedures.

Range oral medication – tableting, liquid;  
topical medication includes but is not limited to – ear, eye.

**Outcome 4**

Describe infectious diseases and parasites of cats, and their prevention and control programmes.

**Performance criteria**

4.1 Describe the clinical signs, methods of transmission, prevention, and control programmes of infectious diseases.

Range evidence of at least four infectious diseases is required from – feline calici virus, feline herpes virus, feline panleucopaenia virus, feline immunodeficiency virus, feline leukaemia virus, chlamydia.

4.2 Describe the clinical signs, methods of transmission, prevention, and control programmes of parasites.

Range evidence of at least two internal parasites, and two external parasites is required.

**Outcome 5**

Identify and describe ideal features of commercial cat housing.

**Performance criteria**

5.1 Identify and describe the ideal features of commercial cat housing.

Range includes but is not limited to – internal materials, size, safety features, security, environmental enrichment, comfort, waste disposal, isolation facility.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2026
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	1 November 2018	31 December 2023
Review	2	26 August 2021	N/A
Rollover	3	26 January 2023	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0228
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact Muka Tangata – People, Food, and Fibre Workforce Development Council [qualifications@mukatangata.nz](mailto:qualifications@mukatangata.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.