

<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 2022
Review	2	26 August 2021	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 the Primary ITO [standards@primaryito.ac.nz](mailto:standards@primaryito.ac.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.