

Title	Describe rodent feeding, health, housing, and routine health procedures		
Level	3	Credits	3

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to describe: food components, nutritional requirements, diets, and feeding of rodents; health and variations to normal health and behaviour, the oestrus cycle, mating, and clinical signs of rodents requiring isolation; the ideal condition and routine health procedures for a rodent; infectious diseases and parasites of rodents, and their prevention and control programmes; and commercial rodent housing.
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Classification	Animal Care and Handling > Animal Care
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

1 Legislation and guidelines relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:

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

Rodents refer to guinea pig, rat, mouse.

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.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

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

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;
minerals – calcium, phosphorous, iron.
- 1.2 Describe nutritional requirements of rodents in terms of the variations due to life stages and body condition and breed.
- Range young, adult, senior;
pregnancy, when caring for young.
- 1.3 Describe rodent feed types in terms of their advantages and disadvantages, and storage requirements.
- Range evidence is required for at least one advantage and one disadvantages of two rodent feed types.
- 1.4 Describe the potential impacts of an unbalanced diet on rodent health.
- Range evidence of two potential impacts is required.
- 1.5 Describe the types and uses of feeding and watering equipment for rodents.

Outcome 2

Describe health, variations to normal health and behaviour, and clinical signs of rodents requiring isolation.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe the clinical signs of health, and variations to normal health and behaviour.
- Range evidence is required for at least six clinical signs.
- 2.2 Describe the clinical signs requiring isolation of rodents.
- Range evidence of at least two clinical signs is required.

Outcome 3

Describe the ideal condition and routine health procedures for a rodent.

Performance criteria

3.1 Describe the ideal physical condition of the rodent.

Range condition of – body, coat, eyes, nose.

3.2 Describe the procedures for clipping claws.

3.3 Describe routine health procedures required for rodents.

Range oral medication – liquid.

Outcome 4

Describe infectious diseases and parasites of rodents, 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 two infectious diseases is required.

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

Range evidence of two internal parasites and two external parasites is required.

Outcome 5

Describe commercial rodent housing.

Performance criteria

5.1 Describe commercial rodent housing in terms of the ideal features.

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

Planned review date	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	26 August 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0228

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 if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.