

Title	Monitor health, provide husbandry for, handle, and transport rabbits		
Level	3	Credits	3

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify the characteristics of rabbits; describe, and handle and transport rabbits; care for healthy rabbits; describe health, variations to normal health, and clinical signs requiring isolation of rabbits; describe biological data and ideal condition of rabbits, and carry out routine health procedures for rabbits; describe infectious diseases and parasites of rabbits, and their prevention and control programmes; and ideal rabbit 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, standards, and codes relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to:

- Animal Welfare Act 1999;
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996;
- 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, under Animal Welfare;
- Relevant National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) guidelines at 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, transport, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer and must be consistent with equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

- 3 For the purposes of assessment:
- a live rabbit is not required to be used for assessment of practical handling and transport. Assessment may be carried out using a model in a simulated situation.
 - evidence must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.
 - the learner is expected to be involved in the care of rabbits in an animal facility or other commercial setting over at least three days. The days are not required to be consecutive.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Identify the characteristics of rabbits.

Performance criteria

1.1 Identify rabbits in terms of their breed characteristics.

Range at least one rabbit for each of four breeds is required.

1.2 Identify rabbits in terms of their sex.

Outcome 2

Describe, and handle and transport rabbits.

Performance criteria

2.1 Handle rabbits safely for routine activities in a secure environment.

Range catch, carry out of cage, cage.

2.2 Restrain rabbits safely for clinical examination.

Range clinical examinations may include but are not limited to – temperature, heart rate, eye examination, ear examination; evidence for at least three is required.

2.3 Describe procedures for handling fractious, pregnant, injured, aged, and unwell rabbits.

2.4 Transport rabbits safely within the animal facility.

Outcome 3

Care for healthy rabbits.

Performance criteria

3.1 Feed and water rabbits.

- 3.2 Maintain feeding equipment for rabbits.
- 3.3 Groom rabbits.
- 3.4 Maintain grooming equipment.
- 3.5 Maintain housing for rabbits.

Outcome 4

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

Range clinical signs include but are not limited to – movement, physical appearance, general demeanour, appetite, thirst, toileting.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe clinical signs of normal health and associated behaviour.
- 4.2 Describe clinical signs of variations to normal health and associated behaviour.
- 4.3 Describe clinical signs requiring isolation of rabbits.

Range evidence of at least two clinical signs is required.

Outcome 5

Describe biological data and ideal condition of rabbits, and carry out routine health procedures for rabbits.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Describe normal biological data of rabbits.

Range data includes but is not limited to – frequency of oestrus, ideal breeding age, gestation, litter size, longevity.

- 5.2 Describe the ideal condition of rabbits in terms of their physical appearance.

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

- 5.3 Carry out routine health procedures for rabbits.

Range examine teeth, clip claws, administer oral medication, apply topical medication.

Outcome 6

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

Performance criteria

6.1 Describe infectious diseases of rabbits in terms of their clinical signs, methods of transmission, prevention, and control programmes.

Range may include but are not limited to – coccidiosis, pasturella, ringworm, viral haemorrhagic disease; evidence of at least two diseases is required.

6.2 Describe external parasites of rabbits in terms of their clinical signs, methods of transmission, prevention, and control programmes.

Range external parasites – fleas, mites.

Outcome 7

Describe ideal domestic rabbit housing.

Performance criteria

7.1 Describe features of ideal domestic housing for rabbits.

Range features include but are not limited to – materials, size, siting, safety features, security, environmental enrichment, internal features, bedding, waste disposal, isolation facility.

Replacement information	This unit standard and unit standard 32804 replaced unit standard 5149.
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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
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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 if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.