

Monitor health and provide husbandry for ruminants

Level 2

Credits 5

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify ruminants; handle ruminants safely for routine activities; describe requirements for feeding and watering ruminants; describe indications of health and ill health in ruminants, and appropriate responses; and carry out routine health procedures for ruminants.

Subfield Animal Care and Handling

Domain Animal Care

Status Registered

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Entry information Open.

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, including the *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand, Code of Animal Welfare No. 15* (ISBN 0-478-07372-0); 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 versions of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*).
Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.

- 2 Definition
Ruminants, in this unit standard, refer to cattle, sheep, goats, and deer.
- 3 As part of the evidence requirements for this unit standard, the candidate is expected to be involved in the ongoing care of a ruminant over the course of at least two consecutive days.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Identify ruminants.

Range at least three species.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Ruminants are identified in terms of common breed and type.

Range cattle – at least four breeds;
sheep – at least four breeds;
goats – at least two breeds;
deer – at least two species;
types – milking, fibre production, meat producing.
- 1.2 One animal from each species is identified in terms of age and sex, using terminology outlined in standard procedures.
- 1.3 One animal from each species is distinguished from others of the same species in terms of individual characteristics.

Range may include but is not limited to – colour, approximate weight, identifying features, history, tattoo, brands, ear tag, ear notches, microchip.
- 1.4 Methods are used to temporarily identify animals for specific purposes.

Range methods may include but are not limited to – drafting, raddle, paint, chin ball harness, collar;
evidence is required for at least one method for any species.

Element 2

Handle ruminants safely for routine activities.

Range cattle, deer, and sheep or goats.

Performance criteria

2.1 Animals are handled safely for routine activities without injury to the handler or animals and with minimum stress to the animals.

Range activities may include but are not limited to – moving, yarding, milking, catching, oestrous detection; evidence of at least three activities is required for a small group (minimum four animals) of each species.

2.2 Safe restraint of animals for routine procedures is described in terms of age of animal and methods.

Range age – young, adult; methods may include but are not limited to – crush, stocks, head bale, cradle, leg rope, holding; evidence is required for two methods for each species.

2.3 Safe handling of fractious, pregnant, injured, or unwell animals of any species is described in terms of procedure.

Range may include but is not limited to – yarding, penning, restraining, transport by vehicle.

2.4 The consequences of poor handling techniques are identified in terms of animal welfare, potential impact on primary product value, and human safety.

Range potential impact may include but is not limited to – damage to antlers, hides, skins, and carcasses; reduced milk production; personal injury.

Element 3

Describe requirements for feeding and watering ruminants.

Range one animal, or a small group, for each of three species.

Performance criteria

3.1 Management of feed and water supply for animals is described in terms of requirements for maintaining good animal health and body condition.

Range colostrum feeding, milk feeding, pasture feeding, supplementary feeding, managing change in diet, daily water requirements.

- 3.2 Requirements for maintaining feeding and watering equipment are described in terms of cleanliness and hygiene.

Element 4

Describe indications of health and ill health in ruminants, and appropriate responses.

Range at least three species.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Normal health and behaviour are described according to their signs.
- Range appetite, physical appearance, posture, movement, general demeanour, social interaction.
- 4.2 Significant biological events in the normal life cycle of ruminants are described in terms of time and/or duration.
- Range may include but is not limited to – weaning age, breeding age, oestrus cycle, gestation, longevity, wool growth patterns, velvet/antler development.
- 4.3 Signs of oestrus are described in terms of physical and behavioural changes.
- 4.4 Abnormal health and behaviour are described in terms of their signs and possible causes, and appropriate action to be taken is identified.
- Range signs include but are not limited to – appetite, physical appearance, posture, movement, general demeanour, social interaction;
possible causes include but are not limited to – parasitism, infectious disease.
- 4.5 Situations requiring isolation of animals are identified.
- 4.6 Liveweight and body condition scoring are described in terms of purpose and procedure.

Element 5

Carry out routine health procedures for ruminants.

Range at least one animal for each of three species.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Normal biological data are collected and recorded according to standard procedures.
- Range respiration, pulse, temperature, estimated weight.

- 5.2 Condition of animals is assessed in terms of physical appearance.
- Range may include but is not limited to – estimated body condition score; condition of skin, coat, eyes, and mouth; lactation.
- 5.3 Routine health procedures are carried out to ensure animals' health and welfare.
- Range parasite control;
foot care;
administration of medication or vaccine by injection, drenching, oral boluses, pour on, intramammary, or intrauterine routes;
evidence for at least two procedures for each species is required.
- 5.4 Routine procedures requiring attention by qualified personnel are identified and described, according to species, in terms of individual animal's requirements.
- Range may include but is not limited to – marking, castration, tuberculosis testing, pregnancy testing, tail docking, velvetting, dehorning.

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.