

Title	Assist the veterinarian with animal anaesthetic and analgesic procedures		
Level	5	Credits	18

Purpose	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: assist the veterinarian with local anaesthesia; prepare the anaesthetic machine and associated equipment; prepare for anaesthesia and assist in anaesthetic induction; intubate the patient; maintain and monitor the patient under gaseous anaesthesia, and describe anaesthetic emergencies that may arise and appropriate responses; monitor the animal's recovery from anaesthesia; maintain anaesthetic equipment and apparatus; assist the veterinarian with analgesia; and advise on basic post-operative nursing care.</p>
----------------	--

Classification	Animal Care and Handling > Veterinary Nursing
-----------------------	---

Available grade	Achieved
------------------------	----------

Prerequisites	<p>Unit 5155, <i>Prepare animal patients for surgery</i>; and Unit 5189, <i>Follow safe working practices and standards in the animal facility</i>; or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.</p>
----------------------	---

Guidance Information

- 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, 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*); BESTPRACTICE™ *Standards for Companion Animal and Large Animal Combined Module for Mixed Practices*; and *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nurses and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*).

Prescription Animal Remedies (PAR) Classification of Animal Remedies.

Animal Welfare Act 1999, Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.

2 Definition

In-house procedures refer to the documented policies and procedures for animal care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer, consistent with NZVA BESTPRACTICE™ standards.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Assist the veterinarian with local anaesthesia.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Local anaesthetics are described in terms of their indications, speed of action, and duration of effects.
- 1.2 Local anaesthetic drugs are prepared for use as directed by the veterinarian.
- 1.3 Patient is restrained, without stress or injury to animal or self, to allow veterinarian to administer anaesthetic agent.

Outcome 2

Prepare the anaesthetic machine and associated equipment.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Anaesthetic circuits and equipment are selected ensuring suitability for individual patient.
- 2.2 Function checks are carried out on anaesthetic equipment and scavenging system according to standard procedures.
- 2.3 Monitoring equipment is readied according to in-house procedures.

Range stethoscope, oesophageal stethoscope, apnoea monitor, pulse monitor, charts.

Outcome 3

Prepare for anaesthesia and assist in anaesthetic induction.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Base line vital signs of the animal are measured and recorded according to standard procedures.

Range temperature, pulse, respiration rates, mucous membrane colour, capillary refill time.
- 3.2 Intravenous anaesthetics and reversal agents are prepared for use as directed by the veterinarian.

3.3 Endotracheal tubes and associated equipment are selected according to individual animal's trachea and veterinarian's preference, patency checked, and prepared for use.

Range associated equipment includes – laryngoscope, lubricant, laryngeal local anaesthetic.

3.4 Animal is positioned for induction, and assistance provided to veterinarian in induction of anaesthesia as directed.

Range prepare injection site, vein raised, patient restraint, support/positioning of patient during induction, needle/cannula secured to patient's leg.

Outcome 4

Intubate the patient.

Performance criteria

4.1 Animal is intubated, as supervised by the veterinarian, to ensure distal end of endotracheal tube is mid cervical in the trachea.

4.2 Cuff is inflated to form airtight seal, and tube is tied in to prevent prolapse and connected to machine.

4.3 Problems of intubation are described in terms of potential injury to animal.

Range over-inflation, incorrect tube size, over-extended time of placement, cross-infection, species differences, laryngospasm and ways of overcoming, damage to laryngeal structures, oesophageal intubation, securing tubes.

Outcome 5

Maintain and monitor the animal under gaseous anaesthesia, and describe anaesthetic emergencies that may arise and appropriate responses.

Performance criteria

5.1 Animal is connected to gaseous anaesthetic machine and machine is adjusted according to individual patient's needs as supervised by the veterinarian.

Range flow rate, circuits for rebreathing and non-rebreathing system, masks.

5.2 Depth of anaesthesia is monitored and recorded according to standard procedures, and adjusted as directed by the veterinarian.

5.3 Anaesthetic emergencies are described in terms of changes to vital signs of patient.

Range respiratory rate and character, heart rate and character, pulse, mucous membrane colour, capillary refill time, pupil size and position, pedal and palpebral reflexes, jaw tone.

5.4 Immediate response to an anaesthetic emergency is described in terms of ongoing assistance given to the veterinarian.

Range cardiac massage, intubation, intermittent positive pressure ventilation (IPPV), drug preparation and administration.

Outcome 6

Monitor the animal's recovery from anaesthesia.

Performance criteria

6.1 Recovering animal is placed in safe place, and monitored according to standard procedures, to avoid recovery trauma.

6.2 Animal is placed in position and airways checked according to in-house procedures to ensure patency.

6.3 Endotracheal cuff is deflated and endotracheal tube removed as directed by the veterinarian, without stress or injury to patient.

6.4 Possible complications arising during recovery from anaesthesia are described in terms of appropriate responses.

Range vomiting, apnoea, dyspnoea, haemorrhage, hyper-excitement, pain, discomfort.

Outcome 7

Maintain anaesthetic equipment and apparatus.

Performance criteria

7.1 Equipment used in anaesthetic process including anaesthetic machine is maintained, cleaned, sterilised, and stored according to the manufacturer's instructions.

7.2 Faulty equipment is identified, and repair/replacement initiated according to in-house procedures.

7.3 Anaesthetic gases, equipment, and agents are assessed and safely refilled according to the manufacturer's specifications, and supply ordered according to in-house procedures.

7.4 Anaesthetic emergency kit is maintained according to in-house procedures.

Outcome 8

Assist the veterinarian with analgesia.

Performance criteria

- 8.1 Pain in animals is described in terms of its signs.
- 8.2 Nursing techniques to relieve pain are described in terms of the nature of the illness or injury.
- 8.3 Analgesic drugs are prepared for use as directed by the veterinarian.
- 8.4 Patient is restrained without stress or injury to animal or self, site is prepared, and analgesic agent administered according to practice protocol and legislative requirements.

Outcome 9

Advise on basic post-operative nursing care.

Performance criteria

- 9.1 Type of surgery and anticipated progress of patient is explained in an easy to understand manner.
- 9.2 Ongoing nursing care and follow up consultation requirements for the patient are explained as directed by the veterinarian.

Range exercise, feeding instructions or special diets, wound and suture care and protection, bandage and cast care, normal recovery time, medications, situations when veterinary attention is required, protection from other pets or children, toileting requirements.

This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	30 June 1996	31 December 2022
Revision	2	16 December 1996	31 December 2022
Revision	3	16 November 1998	31 December 2022
Revision	4	7 June 2000	31 December 2022
Review	5	26 July 2005	31 December 2022
Revision	6	25 June 2007	31 December 2022
Review	7	22 October 2020	31 December 2022

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0228
--	------

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

This unit standard is expiring