

Provide specialist care for paediatric companion animal patients and the mother

Level 4

Credits 3

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to for companion animals: provide care in the event of abnormal early health and behaviour of the neonate; attend to ongoing general health requirements; care for the orphaned animal; wean according to species; and respond to client requests for advice.

Subfield Animal Care and Handling

Domain Animal Husbandry

Status Registered

Status date 8 August 1996

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Entry information Open.

Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA, industry and teaching professional in the same field from another provider.

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, 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>).
Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.

- 2 *In-house procedures* refer to the documented policies and procedures for animal care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer.
- 3 Underpinning Knowledge
The following areas of knowledge underpin performance of the elements in this unit standard:
- Element 2*
Constituents of mother's milk
Assessment of foster mother
Supplements and substitute formulae
Types of heat sources and precautions to take when using (hot water bottle, warmed bed, incubator, heating pad, space blankets, heat lamp)
- Element 3*
Weaning methods
Diets for weaning
- Element 4*
Ideal weaning weight according to species.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Provide care in the event of abnormal early health and behaviour of the neonate.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Normal, and problems of, health and behaviour are recognised in terms of providing nursing care or summoning the veterinarian.
- Range behaviour, vocalisation, social contact, orifices and mucous membranes, explorative behaviour, physical condition.
- 1.2 Normal development of senses over time is described in terms of ears and eyes opening.
- 1.3 Early exposure is provided which assists socialisation.
- Range noise stimulation, social contact, physical contact.

Element 2

Attend to ongoing general health requirements.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Optimal environmental conditions are maintained in terms of individual requirements of neonate and mother.
- Range security, warmth, lighting, low noise level, limited/no interference from other pets or children, adequate nutrition and water supply.

- 2.2 Heredity and congenital abnormalities and deformities according to species are described in terms of the long term viability of the affected animal.
- Range cleft palate, encephalocoele, spina bifida, hydrocephalus, microphthalmos, malformations of the heart, anal atresia, Siamese twins.
- 2.3 Preventative health care for newborn is implemented at appropriate age and time according to species and individual.
- Range endo and ectoparasites, vaccination, diet, monitoring food/fluid intake and output.

Element 3

Care for the orphaned animal.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Options for orphan care are assessed in terms of the individual situation.
- Range hand rear, foster mother.
- 3.2 Milk substitute for orphan is selected or formulated to ensure substitute is similar in constituent and calorific value to natural source, and additives are included as required.
- 3.3 A feeding and post-feeding schedule is formulated and implemented in terms of species requirements.
- Range type, amount, timing, frequency, method, elimination.
- 3.4 The orphaned neonate is provided with an environment appropriate for species survival.
- Range warmth, bedding, light, stimulation.
- 3.5 Problems associated with the orphaned neonate are outlined in terms of success of survival.
- Range physical, physiological, moving away from heat source, elimination, environmental hazards, bonding.

Element 4

Wean according to species.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Weaning is carried out at a suitable age and time that is least stressful for mother and offspring.
- 4.2 Feeding is adjusted to accommodate transition from milk to junior to adolescent to adult diet without digestive upset.
- Range frequency, content, method, type, food quality and quantity.

Element 5

Respond to client requests for advice.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 General enquiries from clients are assessed to determine most suitable person to deal with enquiry.
- 5.2 Advice within parameters specified by the establishment or practice and within the capability of self is provided in a manner which is tactful and at a level of understanding appropriate for the client.
- Range normal course of events, hand rearing, normal behaviour, early training, weaning, nutrition, health, lactation, feeding, preventative health care (worming, flea control).
- 5.3 Need for referral to a specialist is assessed in accordance with in-house procedures.

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.