

Title	Collect and carry out routine examinations on faecal samples from animals		
Level	5	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: collect and store faeces samples; examine faeces; and maintain safety of workplace and self in the course of duties.
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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 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*) and *BESTPRACTICE™ Companion Animal Practice Standards*.
 Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, 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:
 - Outcome 1
 - Methods of faeces collection, preservation, and storage
 - Precautions when obtaining rectal samples
 - Time of day of collection
 - Outcome 2
 - Causes of variations from normal faeces, dietary implications
 - Colour change of stain according to condition
 - Situations where additional faecal smear is required
 - Identification of internal parasite species and identification by eggs and larvae
 - Preparation and use of microscope

Stain types and methods according to test
Routine care, cleaning, daily maintenance of microscope to maintain in good working condition
Errors and correction factors to ensure accuracy of procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Collect and store faeces samples.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Fresh faeces are collected according to test required, and stored in holding container which prevents deterioration and contamination.
- Range salvage, per rectum, off clean surface.
- 1.2 Methods for, and conditions of, storage of faeces to prevent deterioration of sample are described.

Outcome 2

Examine faeces.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Macroscopic examination is carried out on faeces, to determine state according to species and standard procedures.
- 2.2 Sample is prepared and microscopic examination carried out using method appropriate for test and according to standard procedures.
- Range muscle fibres, starch granules, fat globules, bacteria, protozoans.
- 2.3 Sample is prepared for chemical testing, and examined for digestive enzymes and trypsin according to standard procedures.
- Range film test, tube test.
- 2.4 Macroscopic test for occult blood is carried out using test kits according to manufacturer's instructions.
- 2.5 Sample is prepared and examined for parasite ova, larvae, and protozoa according to standard procedures.
- Range qualitative methods – sedimentation, flotation, centrifuge, Baermans;
quantitative methods – Macmasters, Stolls.
- 2.6 Results are recorded according to in-house procedures.

Outcome 3

Maintain safety of workplace and self in the course of duties.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Designated working area, kept specifically for the purpose, is clean and organised to prevent contamination in accordance with NZVA Companion Animal Practice Standards.
- 3.2 Special wastes are bagged in safety approved polythene bags and disposed of according to workplace health and safety protocol.
- 3.3 Quality control measures are followed in accordance with diagnostic test specifications to ensure accurate results.
- Range records, equipment, reagents, technical integrity.
- 3.4 Protective clothing and disposable gloves are used throughout the process where there is a known or suspected personal safety risk in accordance with NZVA Companion Animal Practice Standards.
- 3.5 Safe working practices are adopted according to practice policies on all matters of health and safety according to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and workplace safety plan.
- 3.6 Stocks of laboratory supplies are checked and re-ordered according to in-house procedures.

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	8 August 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
Revision	5	16 October 2001	31 December 2022
Rollover and Revision	6	25 June 2007	31 December 2022
Review	7	22 October 2020	31 December 2022

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>.