

Title	Examine an animal for ectoparasites, collect and examine samples		
Level	5	Credits	4

Purpose	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare the site, and collect and examine a skin scraping for gross evidence of ectoparasites; prepare and examine skin scrapings and hair for microscopic evidence of ectoparasites; examine ears, and collect and examine samples for presence of ectoparasites; and maintain workplace and safety of self in workplace in the course of duties.</p>
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Classification	Animal Care and Handling > Animal Care
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Available grade	Achieved
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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*) 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.
- In-house procedures* refer to the documented policies and procedures for animal care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer.
- Underpinning Knowledge**

The following areas of knowledge underpin performance of the elements in this unit standard:

Outcome 1

Stages and life cycles of fleas, cheyletiella, biting and sucking lice, ringworm, ticks, flies/maggots

Care, maintenance, and precautions for use of Woods Lamp

Identification of site suitable for skin scraping

Outcome 2

Identification of otodectes/notoedres sp./demodex/sarcoptes sp. mites, stage of life cycle

Routine care, cleaning, daily maintenance of microscope to maintain in good working condition.

Outcomes and performance criteria**Outcome 1**

Prepare the site, and collect and examine a skin scraping for gross evidence of ectoparasites.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Patient's coat and skin are examined, according to standard procedures, for gross evidence of micro and macro ectoparasites.

Range fleas, cheyletiella, ticks, maggots, biting and sucking lice.
- 1.2 Patient's coat is brushed on to clean, white surface, and brushings examined according to standard procedures for presence of ectoparasites.
- 1.3 A Woods Lamp is used, according to manufacturer's instructions, to detect the presence, and distribution of fluorescing ringworm.
- 1.4 Results are recorded and reported to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures.

Outcome 2

Prepare and examine skin scrapings and hair for microscopic evidence of ectoparasites.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Hair samples are collected, prepared for microscopic examination, and examined, according to standard procedures.

Range cheyletiella, fungal hyphae.
- 2.2 Skin scraping samples are collected, prepared for microscopic examination, and examined, according to standard procedures.

Range biting lice, sucking lice.
- 2.3 Presence of ringworm in hair samples is determined according to Fungassay test carried out according to manufacturer's instructions.
- 2.4 Results are recorded and reported to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures.

Outcome 3

Examine ears, and collect and examine samples for presence of ectoparasites.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Patient's ears are examined and indications of possible presence of otodectes are identified according to standard procedures.
- 3.2 Wax sample is collected by bacterial swab, and examined by microscope for presence of otodectes according to standard procedures.
- 3.3 Results are recorded, and reported to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures.

Outcome 4

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

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Designated working area, kept specifically for the purpose, is clean and organised to prevent contamination in accordance with NZVA Companion Animal Practice Standards.
- 4.2 Special wastes are bagged in safety approved polythene bags and disposed of according to practice health and safety protocol.
- 4.3 Quality control measures are followed in accordance with diagnostic test specifications to ensure accurate results.

Range records, equipment, reagents, technical integrity.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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	30 June 1996	31 December 2022
Revision	2	16 November 1998	31 December 2022
Revision	3	7 June 2000	31 December 2022
Revision	4	16 October 2001	31 December 2022
Rollover and Revision	5	25 June 2007	31 December 2022
Review	6	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>.