

## **Collect and test diagnostic samples from companion animals, and prepare the samples for dispatch**

**Level** 3

**Credits** 4

**Purpose** People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare companion animals for sample collection; collect, label, and store samples from companion animals; carry out tests on diagnostic samples from companion animals; prepare samples from companion animals for dispatch to external laboratories; maintain safety of workplace and self in the course of duties associated with handling companion animal samples; and follow quality control procedures, and describe a system for reordering stock for work associated with collection and handling of companion animal samples.

**Subfield** Animal Care and Handling

**Domain** Animal Care

**Status** Registered

**Status date** 26 July 2005

**Date version published** 25 June 2007

**Planned review date** 31 July 2009

**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>.

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## 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>) including the current versions of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*), and BESTPRACTICE™ *Standards for Companion Animal and Large Animal Combined Module for Mixed Practices*.  
New Zealand Standard NZS 4304:2002 *Management of Healthcare Waste*.  
Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definitions  
*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.  
*Companion animals*, in this unit standard, refers to cats and dogs.
- 3 Evidence requirements must be met for either cats or dogs, or a combination of both.
- 4 Notifiable diseases are published at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet>.

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## Elements and performance criteria

### Element 1

Prepare companion animals for sample collection.

Range includes but is not limited to – blood, urine, faeces, cytology, skin scraping.

### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Intake of animal is described in terms of its effect on the validity of the sample test.  
Range food, water, administration of medication.
- 1.2 Animal is restrained to allow samples to be collected, without injury to self or animal and with minimum stress to the animal.  
Range may include but is not limited to – cephalic, jugular, cystocentesis, ear swab.
- 1.3 Site on the animal is prepared and cleaned according to type of samples to be taken.

## Element 2

Collect, label, and store samples from companion animals.

### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Collection equipment and containers are selected and assembled according to samples required and techniques to be used.
- 2.2 Assistance is provided to the veterinarian with collection and handling of blood samples in a manner that prevents damage to the sample and site.
- 2.3 Urine is collected by free flow from animal into a suitable container and stored using a method appropriate to the test required.
- 2.4 Vomit is collected from a surface, free of contaminants, and stored to prevent deterioration and contamination.
- 2.5 Samples are collected from an area where mites are likely to be present, in a manner which causes least change to sample.
- Range brushing, tape preparation, skin scraping, ear swabs.
- 2.6 Fresh faeces are collected by salvage, free of contaminants from surrounding area, and stored to prevent deterioration and contamination.
- 2.7 Material for cytology is collected under sterile conditions, prepared, and stored to prevent deterioration and contamination.
- Range may include but is not limited to – fluids, fine needle aspirates, impression smears, vaginal smears.
- 2.8 Tissue samples are prepared for histopathology as directed by the veterinarian, and preserved according to diagnostic laboratory requirements.
- Range preservation involves selection of size of sample, type and volume of preservative fluid, suitable container.
- 2.9 Samples are labelled and stored immediately after collection according to diagnostic laboratory requirements.

## Element 3

Carry out tests on diagnostic samples from companion animals.

### Performance criteria

- 3.1 Tests are carried out according to standard procedures.
- Range urinalysis (specific gravity, urine chemistry); packed cell volume (PCV); blood smear; McMaster's faecal egg count; blood glucose.

#### **Element 4**

Prepare samples from companion animals for dispatch to external laboratories.

Range blood (tube and smear), urine, faeces, cytology.

#### **Performance criteria**

- 4.1 Individual samples are packed to prevent damage and leakage during transport.
- 4.2 Samples are packaged, labelled, and marked according to postal regulations and courier requirements.
- 4.3 Written instructions are included according to diagnostic laboratory requirements.
- 4.4 Latest dispatch time for optimum results from samples is identified.

#### **Element 5**

Maintain safety of workplace and self in the course of duties associated with handling companion animal samples.

#### **Performance criteria**

- 5.1 Designated working area is clean and organised to prevent contamination in accordance with NZVA Companion Animal Practice Standards.
- 5.2 Special wastes are bagged in safety-approved polythene bags and disposed of according to current waste management standards.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 Reporting of notifiable diseases is described in accordance with workplace protocol and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry requirements.

## Element 6

Follow quality control procedures, and describe a system for re-ordering stock for work associated with collection and handling of companion animal samples.

### Performance criteria

6.1 Quality control procedures are followed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and diagnostic test specifications to ensure accurate results.

Range procedures include but are not limited to those relating to – records, equipment, reagents, techniques.

6.2 A system for checking and re-ordering stocks of clinical supplies is described according to in-house procedures.

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### 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.

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### Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Primary Industry Training Organisation [standards@primaryito.ac.nz](mailto:standards@primaryito.ac.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.