

Title	Provide emergency first aid for companion animals in the absence of the veterinarian		
Level	6	Credits	10

Purpose	<p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: provide advice to clients regarding managing and transporting the ill or injured animal to the surgery; assess the extent of the condition or injury in the veterinary clinic; and deal with the injury.</p> <p>This unit standard is for experienced people working in a veterinary practice who may be required to deal with emergency situations in the absence of the veterinarian.</p>
----------------	---

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

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

Prerequisites	<p>Unit 5199, <i>Set up an intravenous drip, and manage an animal while on fluid therapy</i>; Unit 5181, <i>Provide emergency first aid care to companion animals</i>; and Unit 5179, <i>Conduct preliminary clinical examination of an animal</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 *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*).

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 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

Immediate support of an emergency
Transport methods according to injury and species

Outcome 2

Poisons and Hazardous Chemicals, National Poisons Centre, Dunedin (03) 474 7000 (urgent), 0800 764 766

Signs/causes of poisoning/toxicities and treatments
Signs and treatments for hypo and hyperglycaemia
Identification and confirmation of death of patient

Outcome 3

Methods of resuscitation
Splint application
Wound dressings
Applications for hot/cold treatment
Comfort requirements according to injury/illness.

Outcomes and performance criteria**Outcome 1**

Provide advice to clients regarding managing and transporting the ill or injured animal to the surgery.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 History is verbally obtained of animal and injury or condition to enable assessment of extent of injury or condition.
- 1.2 Advice is provided to client regarding immediate support and management of the condition or injury prior to transport to veterinary surgery.
- Range road accident, haemorrhage, fractures, unconsciousness, collapse, fitting, vomiting, suspected poisoning, burns, scalds, wasp/bee stings, bites, sprains, hypothermia, hyperthermia, electrocution, foreign bodies, eclampsia, choking, diabetic coma, patient aggression.

Outcome 2

Assess the extent of the condition or injury in the veterinary clinic.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Complete case history and patient detail is taken from client on arrival at the veterinary practice, according to practice protocol, to enable assessment of injury or condition.
- 2.2 A general examination is carried out, according to standard procedures, to assess condition.

Range behaviour, appearance, respiration pattern and rate, temperature, pulse rate, capillary refill time, colour of mucous membranes, haemorrhage, spinal injury or fracture.

2.3 Veterinarian is contacted for advice and supportive treatment in terms of the assessment.

Range telephone, cell phone, pager, radio telephone.

Outcome 3

Deal with the injury.

Performance criteria

3.1 Immediate life support is provided, according to in-house procedures, to prevent further deterioration.

Range maintain airway, resuscitate, control haemorrhage, stabilise fractures or traumatised areas, dress wound, take blood and urine samples pre-treatment, administer medication, insert/stabilise intravenous cannula, administer fluid therapy, apply hot/cold compresses, induce emesis.

3.2 After stabilisation, re-examination for re-assessment is carried out and vital signs are recorded according to standard procedures.

Range respiration pattern and rate, pulse rate, temperature, colour of mucous membranes, capillary refill time, behaviour, appearance.

3.3 General comfort requirements are provided, according to species, to assist recovery.

3.4 Records are maintained 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
Rollover and Revision	4	25 June 2007	31 December 2022
Review	5	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