

Title	Nurse geriatric animals		
Level	5	Credits	4

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: recognise expectations and conditions of old age; attend to the daily needs of geriatric animals; and respond to client requests for advice.
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Classification	Animal Care and Handling > Veterinary Nursing
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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 version of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care*.
 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.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Recognise expectations and conditions of old age.

Performance criteria

- Physical changes are identified in terms of the ageing process.

Range	skin/coat, skeletal, musculature, special senses, appetite, weight, exercise tolerance.
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- Mental changes are identified in terms of the ageing process.

Range	response to stimuli, pain response, memory, adaptability to change, temperament, behaviour, concentration.
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- 1.3 Physiological changes of body systems are identified in terms of the ageing process.
- Range digestive, reproductive, circulatory, urogenital.
- 1.4 Health ailments are identified in terms of the ageing process.
- 1.5 Observations are recorded and reported to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures.

Outcome 2

Attend to the daily needs of geriatric animals.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Animals are cared for on a daily basis in terms of specific routine requirements of the geriatric.
- Range nutrition, diet, water, health, exercise, grooming, medication, bedding, support, opportunity to eliminate bodily waste, rest, mental health.
- 2.2 Areas requiring special, regular attention are cared for, to maintain animal in comfortable state, according to in-house procedures.
- Range skin, coat, neoplastic changes, nails, foot pads, orifices, teeth, pressure points, eyes, ears, joints.

Outcome 3

Respond to client requests for advice.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 General enquiries from clients are assessed to determine most suitable person to deal with enquiry.
- 3.2 Advice within parameters specified by the 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 degenerative process, nutrition, exercise, grooming, mental stimulation, health, administration of prescribed medications, preventative health care, euthanasia, grief counselling.
- 3.3 Need for referral to a specialist is assessed in accordance with veterinary practice 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
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.