

Title	Nurse animal patients with specific medical conditions		
Level	5	Credits	8

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the nature of the condition being nursed; provide daily nursing care for the patient; attend to specific requirements of the patient according to the condition; 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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Prerequisites	Prerequisites: Unit 5160, <i>Nurse a hospitalised animal patient</i> ; Unit 5186, <i>Supervise monogastric animal feeding, and respond to client requests for advice</i> ; and Unit 5199, <i>Set up an intravenous drip, and manage an animal while on fluid therapy</i> ; or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
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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.
- Underpinning Knowledge**
The following areas of knowledge underpin performance of the elements in this unit standard:

Outcome 2
Types of medication used, effects, possible side effects, contra-indications
Basic caloric requirements, importance of dietary intake
Quantity and frequency of feeding
Management of pressure points

Outcome 3
Side effects of medication
When intervention is vital.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the nature of the condition being nursed.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Condition is described in terms of cause and clinical signs.
- 1.2 Methods of diagnosis are described in terms of the nature of the condition.
- 1.3 Likely treatment is described in terms of the nature of the condition.

Outcome 2

Provide daily nursing care for the patient.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Patient is provided with a diet according to the condition, and fed according to the needs of the individual patient, as directed by the veterinarian.
- 2.2 Patient is provided with exercise according to the individual and the condition.
- 2.3 Bedding, clinical aids, or support to assist recovery are provided and maintained in a hygienic state.
- 2.4 Patient is handled in a manner which avoids stress, injury to animal or people, or exacerbation of the condition.

Range moving, lifting, when showing obvious symptoms of the condition, fitting, seizure, cage cleaning, medicant administration.
- 2.5 Patient records are maintained, and observations are recorded and reported to the veterinarian according to practice protocol.
- 2.6 General care is provided to maintain the animal in a comfortable state according to the condition.

Range grooming, bathing, physical therapy, environmental enrichment, psychological support, freedom from pain, alleviation of pain.

Outcome 3

Attend to specific requirements of the patient according to the condition.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Medication is administered as directed by the veterinarian.
- 3.2 Measures are implemented to prevent interference with dressings and bandages without compromising the success of treatment.
- 3.3 Invasive equipment is set up and maintained according to the condition and as directed by the veterinarian.

Range intravenous cannula, urinary catheter, foley catheter (indwelling urinary), chest drain, oxygen therapy tent, nasogastric tube, fluid therapy.

- 3.4 Methods are implemented to prevent interference of invasive equipment by patient without compromising effect of equipment.

- 3.5 Therapy is provided in terms of relieving specific symptoms.

Range may include but is not limited to – walking, swimming.

Outcome 4

Respond to client requests for advice.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 General enquiries from clients are assessed to determine most suitable person to deal with enquiry.
- 4.2 Nursing care advice for animal at home after discharge is provided within parameters specified by the practice and within the capability of self in a manner which is tactful and at a level of understanding appropriate for the client.
- 4.3 Need for referral to a specialist is assessed in accordance with 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>.