

Title	Nurse companion animal patients with an infectious disease		
Level	5	Credits	6

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of common canine and feline infectious diseases; provide daily nursing care for the patient under isolation conditions; attend to specific medical requirements of the patient in isolation; 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	Unit 5199, <i>Set up an intravenous drip, 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 1
 - Features of virus, bacteria, protozoa, fungus (structure, identification, reproduction, pathogenicity)
 - Principles of disease spread, prevention, and treatment
 - Zoonotic potential
 - Immune response (humeral, cellular)
 - Vaccination

Aetiology

Outcome 2

Types of medication used, effects, and possible side effects

Basic caloric requirements, importance of dietary intake

Quantity and frequency of feeding

Management of bedsores

Barrier nursing

Outcome 3

Side effects of medication and contra-indications

When intervention is vital.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of common infectious canine and feline diseases.

Range viral disease to include – canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, canine parvovirus, kennel cough complex, feline enteritis, feline upper respiratory disease complex, feline leukaemia, feline infectious peritonitis, feline immunosuppressive virus (incubation periods, infective stages);
bacterial disease to include – pyoderma, pneumonia, bronchitis, pleuritis, cystitis, tetanus, bacterial enteritis, haemobartonella felis, campylobacter, salmonella;
protozoal disease to include – toxoplasmosis, giardiasis;
fungal disease to include – ringworm, aspergillosis of dogs.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Diseases are identified in terms of their features and clinical signs.
- 1.2 Diseases are described in terms of their methods of transmission and implications for daily nursing.
- 1.3 Preventative measures for disease are described in terms of clinical procedures and ongoing nursing care.

Outcome 2

Provide daily nursing care for the patient under isolation conditions.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Patient's nutrient, calorific, and fluid requirements are calculated and provided according to the individual and the condition.

Range solid food, assisted feeding, parenteral fluid therapy.
- 2.2 Patient is provided with exercise or physiotherapy, according to the individual and the condition, while maintaining isolation procedures.

- 2.3 Bedding is provided and maintained in a manner which assists recovery, and disposed of in a hygienic manner to prevent spread of the disease.
- 2.4 Patient is handled in a manner which avoids stress, injury to animal or people, or spread of the disease to human or other patient.
- 2.5 General care is provided to maintain the animal in a comfortable state and in a manner which avoids the likelihood of spread of the disease.
- Range grooming, bathing, removal and disposal of wastes, hygiene of personnel, attention to orifices, pain and nausea control, environmental temperature control.
- 2.6 Isolation facility equipment and medication is maintained in a state ready for patients when not in use and ensures confinement of infection when in use.
- 2.7 Patient records are maintained, and observations are recorded and reported to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures.

Outcome 3

Attend to specific medical requirements of the patient in isolation.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Medication is administered as directed by the veterinarian.
- 3.2 Measures are implemented to prevent interference by animal with dressings, bandages, and fluid lines without compromising treatment.
- Range Elizabethan collar, spray, restraints.
- 3.3 Treatments and medication are recorded according to in-house procedures.

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 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 health care, pet control, prevention of spread in household or neighbourhood, zoonotic risks.

- 4.3 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	9 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>.