

Nurse an orthopaedic animal patient

Level 4

Credits 5

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare equipment and patient for fixation and application, and assist the veterinarian with the procedure; prepare equipment and patient for sterile surgical orthopaedic procedures as directed by the veterinarian; care for the patient after the procedure; and respond to client requests for advice.

Subfield Animal Care and Handling

Domain Veterinary Nursing

Status Registered

Status date 30 June 1996

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Planned review date 31 July 2009

Entry information Prerequisite: Unit 5155, *Prepare animal patients for surgery*, or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.

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>.

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 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.

2 *In-house procedures* refer to the documented policies and procedures for animal handling and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer.

3 Underpinning Knowledge

The following areas of knowledge underpin performance of the elements in this unit standard:

Element 1

Signs and sites of fracture

Types of casting material available

Principles involved in use of casting material

Fracture classification (cause, extent of damage, type, anatomical location, direction, stability, displacement, fragments, presence of external wound)

Immobilising (types of splints and slings, application of splints and slings)

Element 2

Bone development and healing, factors affecting healing

Association for the Study of Internal Fixation founded under the name of Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen (ASIF/AO) equipment, use, maintenance, sterilisation

Kirschner apparatus, use, maintenance, sterilisation

Types of orthopaedic plates and screws, use, sterilisation

Methods of internal fracture fixation

Common orthopaedic procedures performed in practice

Draping for orthopaedic procedures

Precautions when handling unsupported fractured limb

Use of cancellous bone grafts

Element 3

Precautions for nursing recumbent patient

Treatment and prevention of pressure sores

Use and administration of analgesic drugs.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Prepare equipment and patient for fixation and application, and assist the veterinarian with the procedure.

Range cast, splint.

Performance criteria

1.1 Equipment for fixation is prepared as directed by the veterinarian.

Range undercast padding, casting material, splints, dressings, bandage material.

- 1.2 Patient is prepared for application as directed by the veterinarian.
Range administer pre-medication, assist with induction of anaesthesia.
- 1.3 Assistance is provided to the veterinarian during the procedure as directed.
Range may include but is not limited to – restrain patient as required, support limb, pass materials.

Element 2

Prepare equipment and patient for sterile surgical orthopaedic procedures as directed by the veterinarian.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Sterile equipment and materials are collected as directed by the veterinarian or circulating nurse.
Range ASIF/AO equipment, air drills, air saws, Kirschner apparatus, Jacob's chuck, orthopaedic plates and screws, intra-medullary pins, orthopaedic wire, bone holding forceps.
- 2.2 Patient is prepared for surgery as directed by the veterinarian.
Range administer pre-medication, assist with induction and monitoring of anaesthesia, clip surgical site, initial surgical scrub, transfer of patient to theatre, positioned, final sterile scrub.
- 2.3 Assistance is provided to the veterinarian as directed during post-operative application of support bandage and splint.

Element 3

Care for the patient after the procedure.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Signs of discomfort or complications of procedure are recognised, recorded, and reported to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures.
Range chafing, circulatory impairment, swelling, smell or discharge from cast/splint, evidence of pain, evidence of irritation or interference by patient.
- 3.2 Methods of prevention of self trauma are implemented according to the individual and situation.

3.3 Animal's comfort needs are implemented and maintained to assist recovery.

Range ambient temperature, body temperature, feeding, exercise, practicalities of urination and defecation, padded bedding, support slings when moving and exercising, administration of medication as directed by the veterinarian.

Element 4

Respond to client requests for advice.

Performance criteria

4.1 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 cast care, wound care, fixateur care, revisits, exercise, physiotherapy, feeding, dietary modification, administration of medication, prevention of interference by patient.

4.2 Need for referral to a specialist is assessed in accordance with in-house procedures.

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.

Comments on this unit standard

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