

## Set up and maintain an electrocautery unit, and assist with electrocauterisation of animals

**Level** 3

**Credits** 2

**Purpose** People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare the patient and equipment for sterile surgery; assist with basic procedures; and carry out post-procedure duties.

**Subfield** Animal Care and Handling

**Domain** Veterinary Nursing

**Status** Registered

**Status date** 30 June 1996

**Date version published** 25 June 2007

**Planned review date** 31 July 2009

**Entry information** Open.

**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>.

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### 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 The patient is already anaesthetised in readiness for this procedure.
- 4 Underpinning Knowledge  
The following areas of knowledge underpin performance of the elements in this unit standard:  
*Element 1*  
Electrical circuits  
Parts of electrocautery equipment and their functions  
Safety requirements with regard to flammable liquids and gases  
Treatment of electrical shock and burns  
*Element 3*  
Selection, use, activity, and features of antiseptics and disinfectants and association with micro-organisms  
Factors which affect rate of infection  
Sterilisation methods appropriate for types of materials.

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## Elements and performance criteria

### Element 1

Prepare patient and equipment for sterile surgery.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Preliminary checks are carried out on equipment, according to manufacturer's instructions, to ensure it is in ready state for use.
- 1.2 Patient is prepared and placed to ensure contact with machinery in accordance with in-house procedures.

### Element 2

Assist with basic procedures.

#### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Preparation of self for sterile surgery is completed in accordance with in-house procedures.  
  
Range scrub, gown, glove.
- 2.2 Potential problems are anticipated and measures implemented to avoid occurrence in consultation with the veterinarian.
- 2.3 Assistance is provided to veterinarian, as directed, and equipment maintained to manufacturer's safety standards.

### Element 3

Carry out post-procedure duties.

#### Performance criteria

- 3.1 Patient is cleaned to remove gel from skin in a manner which avoids irritation to skin.
- 3.2 Variations to normal recovery from anaesthesia are recorded and reported to the veterinarian according to in-house procedures.
- 3.3 Client records are completed according to in-house procedures.
- 3.4 Equipment is disassembled, cleaned, and sterilised according to type of material and manufacturer's instructions.  
  
Range          autoclaving, cold chemical sterilisation, gas sterilisation.
- 3.5 Equipment is stored to ensure safety and avoid deterioration.

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#### 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.

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#### Comments on this unit standard

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