

<b>Title</b>	<b>Recognise and interpret problems of behaviour in companion animals</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of behaviour patterns of companion animals and animal/human relationships; demonstrate knowledge of development, learning, and activity states of domesticated animals; and respond to client requests for advice on animal training, behaviour, and problems.
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<b>Classification</b>	Animal Care and Handling > Animal Care
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<b>Available grade</b>	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 versions of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* and *BESTPRACTICE™ Companion Animal Practice Standards*.  
 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 care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer.

**Outcomes and performance criteria**

**Outcome 1**

Demonstrate knowledge of behaviour patterns of companion animals and animal/human relationships.

**Performance criteria**

- 1.1 Social organisation is described in terms of social behaviour patterns found in the wild.  
 Range evolution, domestication, group living, relationships between group

members, communication, interaction with other species, territorial and courtship mechanisms.

- 1.2 Behaviour is described in terms of species, breeds, heritability, and environment.
- Range same species communication (and aggression), dominance towards same species and humans, aggression over food, fear.
- 1.3 Formation of hierarchies is described in terms of animal/human relationships.
- 1.4 Animal/human bond relationships are described in terms of their role in society.

## **Outcome 2**

Demonstrate knowledge of development, learning, and activity states of domesticated animals.

### **Performance criteria**

- 2.1 Developmental periods are described in terms of approximate ages.
- 2.2 Transition periods are described in terms of behaviour changes.
- 2.3 Basic training is described in terms of age, socialisation, and establishment of the animal/human relationship.
- Range weaning, separation anxiety, house training, basic obedience training, introducing new members to group, control of antisocial behaviour (aggression, spraying), control of fears and phobias, boredom.
- 2.4 The importance of the control of arousal is described in terms of handling and training.

## **Outcome 3**

Respond to client requests for advice on animal training, behaviour, and problems.

### **Performance criteria**

- 3.1 General enquiries from clients are assessed to determine most suitable person to deal with enquiry.
- Range animal behaviour specialists, breed society, obedience clubs, veterinarian.
- 3.2 Advice within parameters specified by the practice or establishment 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 selection, house training, basic obedience training, daily care according to age.

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

Range aggression, dominance, antisocial behaviour, introduction of new animals or new family members (babies).

**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	8 August 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>.