
Overview

This standard is about maintaining the health and welfare of animals under supervision and instruction.

The standard includes providing support to maintain the health and welfare of animals by monitoring their condition and behaviour and reporting these to the relevant person.

You will need to be aware of your own limitations and confirm that you meet the relevant legal responsibilities for maintaining a duty of care under current animal health and welfare legislation.

This standard is suitable for anyone who maintains the health and welfare of animals under supervision and instruction.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. carry out your work under supervision and instruction
2. maintain the health and safety of yourself and all those involved in the activity, and the welfare of the animals, during the work
3. maintain hygiene and bio-security in accordance with instructions, business practice and relevant legislation
4. maintain the needs of the animals in your care in accordance with the relevant animal health and welfare legislation
5. interact with the animal in a way that minimises stress or injury
6. maintain the health and well-being of animals during your work activity
7. monitor the physical condition and behaviour of the animals in your care, and report any concerns to the relevant person
8. check the condition of the animals' accommodation in accordance with relevant instructions
9. check that the environmental conditions are suitable for the animals in accordance with relevant instructions
10. check that the animals are provided with food and water in accordance with relevant instructions
11. recognise when an animal's behaviour indicates that you should not continue with the activity and report where necessary to the relevant person
12. maintain records as required by relevant legislations and organisational policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the importance of completing the activity under supervision and instruction
2. your responsibilities under the relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, associated codes of practice and organisational policies
3. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
4. your responsibilities under the relevant animal health and welfare legislation, associated codes of practice and organisational policies
5. the needs of animals that must be maintained under the relevant animal health and welfare legislation
6. how to promote the health and well-being of animals and minimise the risk of stress or injury
7. how to recognise the signs of health in the animal species you are working with
8. how to recognise the signs that may indicate problems with an animal's health and well-being and the actions that should be taken if these are noticed
9. how to recognise the signs of fear, aggression, stress, pain, ill-health and injury in animals you are working with
10. how to maintain animals' accommodation and the equipment and materials needed in accordance with relevant instructions
11. how environmental conditions may affect an animal's health and well-being
12. how your actions or the actions of those involved in your work, may affect the behaviour and welfare of the animals you are working with

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Scope/range

****Signs of health in animal species you are working with including:****

1. appearance and body condition
2. posture and movement
3. behaviour and social interaction
4. excretions
5. normal functions

Glossary

****Current animal health and welfare legislation:****

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland)

Environmental conditions:

- light
- ventilation
- temperature
- humidity
- weather conditions
- size/space
- social contact

The needs of animals:

- suitable environment (place to live)
- suitable diet
- ability to exhibit normal behaviour
- protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease
- housed with, or apart from, other animals (where applicable)
- Relevant person
- supervisor
- manager
- owner

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