

Overview

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

It includes monitoring an animal's physical condition and behaviour, carrying out measures to promote its health and welfare and reporting any concerns or unexpected changes.

You will need to be aware of your own limitations and confirm that you meet the relevant legal responsibilities for providing 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.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. carry out your work in accordance with workplace instructions and procedures
2. carry out all work in accordance with the relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, associated codes of practice and organisational policies
3. carry out all work in accordance with the relevant animal health and welfare legislation, associated codes of practice and organisational policies
4. maintain hygiene and bio-security in accordance with workplace instructions, organisational practice and the relevant legislation
5. carry out a health and welfare check on the animals you are working with
6. recognise signs of ill health in animals and take action, reporting any concerns where necessary
7. minimise the risk of stress and injury to animals in order to maintain their health and welfare
8. monitor the physical condition and behaviour of animals in order to maintain animal health and welfare
9. identify the sex of the animal in order to maintain animal health and welfare
10. monitor the condition of the animal's accommodation and identify any action required
11. monitor the environmental conditions relevant to the animal and make adjustments if necessary
12. check that animals are provided, where necessary, with the required feed and water, monitor their intake and report any concerns
13. provide animals with the opportunity to exercise, where necessary, in order to maintain their health and welfare
14. provide animals with the relevant enrichment, where necessary, in order to maintain their health and welfare
15. provide animals with suitable social interaction opportunities

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- where necessary, in order to maintain their health and welfare
16. interact with the animals, when maintaining their health and welfare, in a way that minimises stress to the animal
 17. seek assistance for any animal health emergency and initiate action relevant to the situation
 18. complete records as required by relevant legislation and organisational policy
 19. manage waste in accordance with the relevant legislation and organisational policy
 20. carry out your work in a way that considers the environment and avoids unnecessary waste

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the importance of carrying out activities in accordance with workplace instructions and procedures
2. your responsibilities under the relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, associated codes of practice and organisational policies
3. your responsibilities under the relevant animal health and welfare legislation, associated codes of practice and organisational policies
4. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
5. the purpose for which the animals are kept and how this may affect their husbandry
6. how to assess the health and welfare needs of the animals in your care and how these can be maintained
7. the common animal diseases and disorders that may affect animals in your care
8. how to promote the health and well-being of animals and minimise any stress and injury
9. how to recognise the signs of health in the animals in your care and the actions that should be taken
10. how to recognise normal social behaviour in order to understand which social opportunities to present to the animal
11. how to recognise the signs that indicate problems with an animal's health and welfare, and the actions that should be taken
12. the accommodation requirements and maintenance routines for the animals in your care
13. the feed and water requirements and routine for the animals in your care
14. how the environmental conditions may be adjusted to meet the health and welfare requirements of the animals in your care
15. why animals need exercise and how the type and amount varies

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according to species, breed and at different stages of an animal's life

16. the different types of enrichment required by the animals in your care
17. how animals maintain their own physical condition and appearance
18. how to recognise a health emergency in an animal and the actions to take
19. how to respond to concerns or issues in relation to your duty of care
20. the limits within your area of responsibility in relation to health problems with the animals in your care
21. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them in accordance with relevant legislation and organisational policy

Scope/range

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

1. appearance and body condition
2. posture and movement
3. behaviour and social interaction
4. excretions (bodily functions)

****Potential problems with animal's health and welfare including:****

1. pain
2. ill-health
3. injury
4. pest infestation
5. trauma
6. weight
7. stress

Glossary

****Current animal 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)

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