## Unit 27: Plan and Manage the Health and Welfare of Animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit code:</th>
<th>K/503/1746</th>
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<td>QCF level:</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Credit value:</td>
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### Aim

The unit aims to develop the management skills and understanding needed to plan and manage animal health and welfare.

### Unit abstract

It is important when carrying out animal care at any level, that learners develop an insight into, and understanding of, factors that influence the management of the health and welfare of animals and the planning and management of animal health and welfare. In this unit learners develop their understanding and ability related to these factors, and will carry out techniques that are acceptable to animal carers, professionals and owners.

### Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this unit a learner will:

1. Be able to plan and manage the health and welfare of animals
2. Understand the factors that influence the management of animal health and welfare.
Unit content

1 Be able to plan and manage the health and welfare of animals

Planning and monitoring animal health and welfare: defining measurable targets and objectives (sourcing animals, housing and dietary requirements, access and handling by humans, requirements and methods for training and exercise, breeding/neutering considerations); optimising health and welfare depending on why animals are being kept; reasons for planning the health and welfare of animals; consulting with specialists/advisers such as veterinary professionals and species/breed specialists; target cost and timescales of health plans; monitoring health of animals regularly with effective use of record-keeping to ensure objectives are being met; evaluation and adaptations to the plans as a result of monitoring activities; risk assessments and hazard perception; additional training required to implement the plans

Development of new techniques: training; professional advice and organisations; cost/benefit analysis of using new technologies and advances; reasons for developing new techniques such as low resistance and broad spectrum medication; advantages and disadvantages of new developments; supervision of others maintaining animal health and welfare

Implementation of the plans: control measures to minimise risks; biosecurity of the area to maintain animal health and welfare; biosecurity to maintain health of self and others; contingency planning; data analysis of plans against benchmark data for the same collections/species; use of animal health and welfare records to inform implementation of the plan including rehoming/culling; communicate use of the plan to others

Resource use: records of animal health and welfare; facilities; supplies for maintaining health, welfare and biosecurity; equipment needed e.g. for cleaning; medication; use of specialists as a resource; when and how to seek advice from experts/specialists; cost/time analysis; improving/decrease of profitability from the plan

2 Understand the factors that influence the management of animal health and welfare

Diseases and disorders: symptoms, treatment, causes, prevention and management of common diseases affecting a range of species; how biosecurity can influence disease control; environmental factors affecting the spread of disease; procedure for introduction of new animals (testing, quarantine and behaviour); dietary influences on diseases and disorders; poor nutrition and the effects on health and welfare of animals; importance of biosecurity when preparing and providing food to animals; culling; euthanasia

Seeking advice: communication with relevant organisations and professionals to help with animal health management plans; how and when to seek advice or clarification on health and welfare issues
Facilities and resource management: maintenance of resources and equipment; access to professional bodies to give expert advice; maintaining biosecurity when handling animals and equipment; cost of resources and planning against the outcomes and animal welfare; cost effectiveness; time constraints; maintenance of staff records in relation to training courses and level of expertise; use of records for successful implementation of animal management plans

Legislation and animal health: Animal Welfare Act; Animal Health Act; Environmental Protection Act; Misuse of Drugs Act; Veterinary Surgeons Act; public health regulations; farm assurance schemes; codes of practice; Defra codes of recommendation for welfare; World Health Organisation; control of zoonotic and notifiable diseases; species/breed advisory and regulatory organisations eg Kennel Club, GCCF; specific timings of care for production animals
## Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

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<tr>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment criteria for pass</th>
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<td><strong>On successful completion of this unit a learner will:</strong></td>
<td><strong>The learner can:</strong></td>
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| **LO1** Be able to plan and manage the health and welfare of animals | 1.1 plan animal health and welfare measures to meet intended purpose, objectives and targets  
1.2 examine the development of new animal health and welfare technologies  
1.3 manage the implementation of a health and welfare plan ensuring use of appropriate resources  
1.4 monitor the effectiveness of animal health and welfare measures carried out |
| **LO2** Understand the factors that influence the management of animal health and welfare | 2.1 analyse diseases and disorders that may affect animal health and welfare  
2.2 explain the role of management systems in the prevention or lessening of the likelihood of animal disease, disorders or other health-related issues  
2.3 evaluate the effectiveness of animal health and welfare measures carried out relevant to legal requirements and codes of practice |
Guidance

Links

This unit links to the following units in this qualification:

Unit 2: Animal Husbandry Management
Unit 3: Animal Health and Welfare
Unit 15: Principles of Animal Health
Unit 16: Management of Animal Collections
Unit 19: Production Animal Management.

Essential requirements

In this unit learners must be involved in a working animal unit, both practically and ‘behind the scenes’. They need adequate access to animal records so they can plan for the health and wellbeing of the animals. Learners must also have access to ICT equipment and the internet, as well as to a range of up-to-date resources and literature including scientific journals.

Animal welfare requirements must be paramount at all times. Animals must not be subjected to stress or overuse during delivery of this unit.

Employer engagement and vocational contexts

Delivery of this unit would be enhanced by learners being involved in running an animal unit, where they could plan animal health and welfare routines including all aspects of their care from preventative treatment to day-to-day care and veterinary appointments and emergencies.

Learners will benefit from guest speakers and visits to organisations such as veterinary hospitals, laboratories, animal collections and establishments. This would give them a balanced view of other establishments and how the daily management of their animals is carried out. Learners could use case studies to evaluate the differences between care plans at different establishments, and then analyse reasons for these differences.