Deliver basic treatments to animals



Overview

This standard covers delivering basic treatments to animals.

The word "treatments" includes both preventative and prescriptive medications and basic healthcare treatments.

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

This standard is suitable for anyone who delivers basic treatments to animals.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out all work in accordance with instructions and workplace procedures
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare, other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P3 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P4 maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security in accordance with workplace procedures
- P5 use the correct protective equipment and clothing in accordance with workplace policy and procedures
- P6 use and store drugs, medications and equipment in accordance with veterinary instructions and organisational policy
- P7 use current and uncontaminated prescribed medication only for the intended animal
- P8 use the correct technique to deliver the specified treatment at the correct time
- P9 seek immediate assistance when it is not possible to deliver basic treatments
- P10 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with legislation and workplace procedures
- P11 observe animals after treatments and immediately report any unusual signs
- P12 keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the importance of completing an activity in accordance with instructions and workplace procedures
- K2 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal related legislation and codes of practice, and the legal limitations of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966)
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K4 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and biosecurity and how this can be achieved
- K5 the significance of expiry dates on drugs and medications
- K6 the possible sources of contamination to medication and how to identify damage
- K7 which equipment to select for each treatment
- K8 how to deliver basic treatments to animals
- K9 the potential consequences of not following instructions and procedures for carrying out treatments
- K10 how to handle and restrain the animal where required to deliver treatments, and when assistance may be required
- K11 reasons and legislative requirements for "withdrawal periods" from some treatments
- K12 how to handle, store and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- K13 changes in the condition of the animal, which may occur after the treatment
- K14 why it is necessary to monitor the behaviour of animals after treatment and report unusual signs
- K15 the limits of your responsibility and ability in relation to health problems in animals
- K16 the importance of maintaining complete and accurate records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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Glossary

Current animal welfare legislation:

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):

It is illegal under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) for non-veterinary surgeons to practise veterinary surgery.

The Act defines Veterinary Surgery as:

the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;

the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;

the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and

the performance of surgical operations on animals.

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