
Overview

This standard covers the provision of enrichment for animals to allow the expression of natural behaviour, and includes environmental, feeding and puzzles, manipulation, social and training activities.

This includes selecting, preparing and using materials and equipment appropriate for the animal and the purpose for which it is being kept. Observation, and review and evaluation of the animal's response and interaction with the enrichment is important, and consideration must also be given to the safety and security of the animal, hygiene and bio-security and the health and safety of people.

Users of the standard will need to ensure that practices reflect up-to-date information and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

This standard is suitable for anyone working with animals.

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Provide enrichment for animals

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P2 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P3 maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security
- P4 use safe practices and appropriate personal protective equipment
- P5 plan **enrichment activities** to meet the requirements of the animal, its environment and the purpose for which it is being kept
- P6 observe and recognise behaviour prior to, during and post enrichment
- P7 assess the animals' suitability for the planned enrichment activities
- P8 select, prepare and check the enrichment equipment and materials
- P9 provide enrichment and monitor the reaction of the animal to the activity
- P10 interact with the animal in a humane manner that minimises stress and allows interaction to be carried out safely
- P11 promote the animal's welfare at all times and adapt your own, and that of others, if necessary, to avoid creating undesirable behaviour
- P12 identify behaviours that may indicate welfare or other problems and report these to the appropriate person
- P13 recognise when behaviour may indicate that you should not continue with the activity
- P14 review the enrichment activity to see that it meets the animals' requirements
- P15 make adjustments to the enrichment activity as necessary
- P16 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 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K2 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K3 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how this can be achieved
- K4 the importance and correct use of appropriate personal protective equipment
- K5 natural behaviour in animals and how opportunities can be replicated for the expression of natural behaviour
- K6 the types of enrichment that can be provided for the animals you are working with
- K7 how the need for enrichment differs between different animals and the context in which the animal is kept
- K8 the reasons for providing animals with different enrichment opportunities and how these differ at different stages of life
- K9 why and when you may consider changing the enrichment opportunity
- K10 how to recognise negative responses to enrichment and what you should do to amend/improve
- K11 how the lack of enrichment opportunities may cause problems in animals
- K12 how your actions, or the actions of others, may affect the behaviour and welfare of the animal
- K13 the different types of equipment that would be used for enrichment and their appropriate use
- K14 why it is important to check, clean and maintain equipment in good order
- K15 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

Enrichment activities could include:

- environmental
- feeding and puzzles
- manipulation
- sensory
- social
- training

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| Developed by | Lantra |
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| Version number | 2 |
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| Date Approved | January 2014 |
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| Indicative review date | January 2019 |
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| Validity | Current |
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| Status | Original |
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| Originating organisation | Lantra |
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| Original URN | LANAnC17 |
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| Relevant occupations | Animal Care |
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| Suite | Animal Care and Welfare |
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| Keywords | enrichment; exercise; activities |
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