Facilitate pregnancy in animals



Overview

This standard covers the facilitation of pregnancy in animals using natural methods or artificial insemination in accordance with the breeding programme.

You must maintain the health and welfare of the animals and recognise any health problems.

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

This standard is for anyone who facilitates pregnancy in animals.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 maintain your own professional conduct and ethics and work within the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 ensure your work is carried out in accordance with instructions and the requirements of the breeding programme
- P3 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice at all times
- P4 assess how the needs of the animals may be provided for while under your duty of care
- P5 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P6 maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security in accordance with workplace procedures
- P7 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with workplace procedures
- P8 select animals in accordance with the breeding programme
- P9 check the physical condition of the animals, their readiness for breeding, and prepare the animals in the appropriate manner
- P10 facilitate fertilisation according to the method specified in the breeding programme
- P11 check and confirm pregnancy and take appropriate action, in relation to husbandry requirements and reporting requirements
- P12 maintain the health and condition of the breeding animals throughout the reproductive cycle
- P13 observe and recognise the behaviour of the animal and record as appropriate
- P14 interact with the animal in a humane manner that minimises stress and allows observation to be carried out safely
- P15 promote the animal's welfare at all times and adapt your own, or others, behaviour if necessary to avoid creating undesirable behaviour
- P16 identify behaviour that may indicate welfare or other problems and report these to the appropriate person
- P17 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 professional and ethical responsibilities and the need to maintain professional competence
- K2 the importance of completing activities in accordance with instructions and the requirements of the breeding programme
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K4 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K5 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and biosecurity and how this can be achieved
- K6 how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- K7 the importance and correct use of personal protective equipment
- K8 how to assess the welfare needs of animals under your duty of care and how this can be maintained
- K9 methods of selecting individual animals for breeding
- K10 how to assess the health and physical condition of animals for breeding
- K11 anatomy of male and female reproductive systems
- K12 mating behaviour that determines or precludes the mating method
- K13 identification of oestrus, timing and preparation for mating or artificial insemination
- K14 factors that influence conception
- K15 how pregnancy is identified in animals and how this may differ between animals
- K16 the actions to take when pregnancy is confirmed
- K17 the actions to take when the animal is not pregnant
- K18 details of special arrangements for the care of breeding and nonbreeding males
- K19 how to observe and recognise animal behaviour as part of your interaction with the animal
- K20 how to recognise behavioural and emotional state of animals including fear, aggression, appearsement, anxiety and relaxation
- K21 how your actions, or the actions of others, may affect the behaviour and

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welfare of the animal

K22 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

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