
Overview

This standard covers caring for animals during gestation and parturition.

It includes monitoring pregnant animals (e.g. food, water, environmental conditions) and taking appropriate action when necessary, such as adjusting husbandry or reporting concerns to the appropriate person.

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

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

This standard is for anyone who cares for animals during gestation and parturition.

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Care for animals during gestation and parturition

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 carry out all work 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 associated codes of practice at all times
- P4 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P5 maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security in accordance with workplace procedures
- P6 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with workplace procedures
- P7 assess the welfare needs of the animal under your duty of care
- P8 maintain the correct environment throughout the gestation period and parturition
- P9 provide feed and water in accordance with instructions
- P10 carry out any routine treatments in accordance with instructions
- P11 interact with the animal in a humane manner that minimises stress and allows observation to be carried out
- P12 observe the condition of the female throughout the gestation period and take the appropriate action if variations from the normal occur
- P13 recognise the **signs** of approaching parturition
- P14 provide the appropriate care immediately following parturition
- P15 assess the risks of approaching the female with its offspring
- P16 check the condition of the female and her offspring at appropriate times and intervals as appropriate to the species
- 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 carrying out 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 bio-security and how this can be achieved
- K6 how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
- K7 how to assess the welfare needs of the animal under your duty of care
- K8 environments that are conducive to the well-being of animals during gestation and parturition
- K9 the length of different stages of gestation
- K10 signs that indicate the health of the animal during the gestation period and those that may indicate variation from the normal
- K11 signs of the animal approaching parturition, including behavioural and physical changes
- K12 different stages of parturition, potential complications and how to recognise and reduce the risks
- K13 forms of assistance that animals may require during parturition and when to seek veterinary advice
- K14 how to recognise a failed pregnancy
- K15 why it is important to re-assess risk when approaching the female and its offspring
- K16 how your actions or the actions of others may affect the behaviour and welfare of the animal
- K17 the importance of communicating with others and where to seek advice and guidance
- K18 the importance of maintaining complete and accurate records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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Scope/range

Signs of parturition:

- 1 behavioural changes
- 2 physical changes

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Glossary

Parturition means the birth process.

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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