
Overview

This standard covers the care of offspring and juvenile animals. This may be as a result of breeding or through the purchase or introduction of juveniles. You will be expected to monitor animals' appearance, posture, movement and behaviour, and promote the health and welfare of animals through diet, living conditions and general care.

You need to be aware of your own limitations and ensure that you meet the legal responsibilities for the 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 offspring or juvenile animals.

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Care for offspring and juvenile animals

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 workplace procedures
- 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 **needs of the offspring and juvenile animals** you are caring for
- P8 monitor the health and condition of the mother and her offspring after birth and take the appropriate action to promote their health and welfare
- P9 take the appropriate action without delay when there are any problems with the health of the offspring or juvenile
- P10 carry out any methods for artificial rearing correctly and in a manner that is appropriate to the animal and its condition
- P11 observe and recognise the behaviour of the animal and record it as appropriate
- P12 interact with the animal in a humane manner that minimises stress and allows observation to be carried out safely
- P13 communicate effectively with others and seek professional advice when necessary
- P14 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 workplace procedures
- 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 the importance and correct use of personal protective equipment
- K8 how to assess the welfare needs of the offspring and juvenile animals you are caring for
- K9 factors that affect the health and condition of the mother and her offspring
- K10 behavioural signs of animal health and well-being and their significance for the health of the mother and offspring
- K11 how the health and well-being of the mother and young can best be promoted
- K12 methods of weaning, and the indications for their use
- K13 the importance of mother-rearing on welfare and the welfare implications of hand-rearing (short- and long-term)
- K14 options for artificial rearing and the likely consequences for the well-being of the animal(s)
- K15 **potential problems** encountered by offspring and juvenile animals and appropriate actions to take, including when to seek veterinary advice and assistance
- K16 when animals need to be separated and how this should be done
- K17 how to observe and recognise **animal behaviour** as part of your interaction with the animal
- K18 how your actions, or the actions of others, may affect the behaviour and welfare of the animal

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- K19 the effect of the animal's environment on its behaviour
- K20 where observed behaviours should be reported to an appropriate person
- K21 the importance of communicating with others and where to seek advice and guidance
- K22 the importance of maintaining complete and accurate records, as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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Scope/range

The needs of the offspring and juvenile animals:

- 1 expression of natural behaviour
- 2 environmental conditions
- 3 diet and nutrition
- 4 enrichment
- 5 exercise
- 6 safety and security
- 7 socialisation to humans and other animals as appropriate
- 8 appropriate exposure to a range of environmental stimuli suitable for the species
- 9 vaccination requirements
- 10 other preventive healthcare requirements
- 11 intended purpose or destination

Potential problems with offspring or juvenile animals:

- 12 loss of mother
- 13 competition
- 14 risk of damage and disease
- 15 loss of milk supply

Animal behaviour:

- 16 fear
- 17 aggression
- 18 appeasement
- 19 anxiety
- 20 play
- 21 relaxation
- 22 abnormal behaviour

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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