

### Overview

This standard covers implementing training programmes for animals. This could include basic training or training to meet specific objectives and is designed to be applicable to all animals that require such forms of training.

Basic training refers to training in basic handling and for obedience and would include the routine training of animals. Training to meet specific objectives would include show and demonstration work.

You will be following a training programme that has already been developed and will be expected to review and record progress against the objectives set out in the programme.

All activities should be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation.

Users of the standard will need to be appropriately trained and ensure that their practice applies scientifically robust information, humane standards and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

This standard is suitable for those with responsibility for the implementation of training programmes for 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, experience and relevant legislation
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and 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 business policies
- P4 handle and interact with the animal in a humane manner that avoids creating behaviour giving rise to welfare concern and allows training to be carried out safely and effectively
- P5 continually assess the animal's suitability for the planned training activities and take appropriate action
- P6 continually assess the capabilities of the handler to maintain the training
- P7 prepare the animal and resources necessary for the planned training activities
- P8 undertake training activities, using methods and resources in accordance with the training programme
- P9 monitor the mental condition and physical behaviour of the animal both before and during the training
- P10 recognise the signs of stress, fear, aggression, pain, conflict and avoidance in the animal and respond appropriately
- P11 review, record and report the animal's progress towards the training objectives regularly, in accordance with the training programme
- P12 implement any agreed changes to the training programme to modify training activities, methods or resources
- P13 recognise if the training programme or a particular task is likely to be detrimental to the animal's health and welfare, in the short- or long-term
- P14 communicate effectively with those involved in the training programme
- P15 seek professional advice when necessary and refer cases on when appropriate
- P16 plan, record, evaluate and reflect upon your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and work within the requirements of the relevant professional organisation

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your professional and ethical responsibilities and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence, experience and relevant legislation
- 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 business policies
- K4 how to ensure that the animal's welfare is maintained throughout and that your behaviour, or that of others, does not cause adverse reactions, fear or distress
- K5 how to assess the **suitability of the animal** for the planned training activity
- K6 how to assess the suitability of environment and **resources** for planned training activities
- K7 how to assess the capabilities of the handler to maintain the training
- K8 the objectives of the training programme and how to monitor progress
- K9 the psychological and physiological effects that training activities may have on the animal
- K10 the range of training methods and how to evaluate these based on scientifically robust information, humane standards and policies
- K11 how to select the most appropriate training methods for the training programme and the animal
- K12 how to prepare animals for training and how this will differ according to the animal, the environment and the training activities to be undertaken
- K13 how to prepare and use resources necessary for the training activities
- K14 the importance of recognising and assessing animal behaviour and condition before and during training activities and taking appropriate action as necessary
- K15 how to assess an animal's confidence levels and how this is related to performance
- K16 correct ways of handling the animal concerned for the safety of the animal, yourself and others
- K17 the use of positive and negative reinforcement and positive and negative punishment and the effects of these approaches on animal behaviour

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- K18 what actions should be taken if the training activities, methods or resources are ineffective
- K19 the factors that can influence an animal's achievement of the training objectives
- K20 indicators that training objectives may not be suitable for the animal and how to recognise them
- K21 how to recognise any potentially detrimental effects of the training programme on the animal's health and welfare, both in the short- and long-term
- K22 how to recognise the limits to which effective training can be applied to achieve success
- K23 why it is important to regularly review and record progress and to whom this should be reported
- K24 why any modifications to the training programme must be made by the person who has designed the programme and not implemented without confirmation
- K25 the importance of communicating with others involved in the training programme
- K26 appropriate records to be kept, the importance of confidentiality and the requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998)
- K27 your professional responsibilities and the importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to maintain professional competence
- K28 where to obtain professional advice and guidance and the role of professional bodies and associations
- K29 the importance of appropriate insurance cover including professional indemnity

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### Scope/range

### Suitability of the animal for training could include:

- 1 species
- 2 breed
- 3 age
- 4 conformation
- 5 physical fitness
- 6 weight/condition score
- 7 training history
- 8 medical history

### Resources:

- 9 personnel
- 10 training aids/equipment
- 11 handling aids/equipment
- 12 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

### Glossary

#### **Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):**

All forms of complementary therapy that involve acts or the practise of veterinary surgery must be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon, subject to any exemption in the Act. At the same time, it is incumbent on veterinary surgeons offering any complementary therapy to ensure that they are adequately trained in its application.

Behavioural treatment of animals is not restricted under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) unless it constitutes the practice of veterinary surgery.

There is no specific exemption order for animal behaviourism and therefore there is no formal jurisdiction to insist upon the involvement of a veterinary surgeon before animal behaviour work is carried out. In many cases, however, animal behaviourists will work on referrals from veterinary surgeons to ensure they are not accused of making a diagnosis of disease or injury (which is restricted to veterinary surgeon).

#### **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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**Relevant occupations** Dog Training and Behaviour; Animal Training and Behaviour; Animals in Education and Entertainment; Farmer

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**Suite** Animal Care and Welfare; Livestock Production

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