
Overview

This standard covers working with animals in education and entertainment. It includes getting the animal used to the surroundings it will be working in as well as assisting the artiste to prepare for working with the animal, ensuring that they are aware of their own safety and the safety of the animal. It also includes working the animal on set and ensuring that filming takes place efficiently while the animal's welfare is maintained.

This standard is suitable for those who have responsibility for working with animals in education and entertainment.

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Work with animals in education and entertainment

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 maintain a high level of professional competence and ethics and work within the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 ensure that all legal and statutory requirements for working with animals on set are maintained at all times.
- P3 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P4 ensure that the animal's welfare needs are properly maintained during their stay on the production set
- P5 ensure specialist veterinarians are available for emergency situations
- P6 assess the potential risks to health and safety in this area of work
- P7 liaise with relevant people on the health and safety implications of having the animal on set
- P8 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P9 introduce the animal to the set in a manner that is appropriate to its health and welfare
- P10 advise the production teams on the animal's required **working conditions**
- P11 check that the animal is able to perform the required action in accordance with its prior training
- P12 introduce the animal to the people it is working with on the set, using appropriate and safe methods
- P13 instruct the artiste on the nature and temperament of the animal they are working with
- P14 instruct the artiste in handling techniques and commands to help them work with the animal
- P15 assist the artiste to become familiar with the animal
- P16 offer hints, tips and encouragement to the artiste if they find it difficult to relate to the animal
- P17 monitor and maintain the safety of the animal and the artiste at all times
- P18 take appropriate action when the animal, artiste or any other people are in danger
- P19 report to relevant people any problems or potential difficulties in introducing the animal and the artiste to each other
- P20 take the animal safely onto or off the set as appropriate

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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 legal and statutory requirements that relate to animals working on set
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K4 the specific welfare needs of animals during their stay on the production set
- K5 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K6 how to identify hazards and assess risks to the animal and artiste
- K7 the safety needs of specific animals
- K8 the methods by which individual animals can be introduced to sets
- K9 the kind of working conditions that specific animals require on set
- K10 how to detect the symptoms of stress that different animals are likely to display
- K11 the kind of alternatives that may be available if animals find the set unduly stressful
- K12 the importance of checking that the animal's welfare needs are met during their stay on the set
- K13 filming techniques, camera shots and angles that are commonly used in order to facilitate the filming of the animal in the required action
- K14 instructional techniques to help artistes in the handling of animals
- K15 how to reassure and encourage artistes to become familiar with animals
- K16 how to recognise that the artiste or animal is not safe or is suffering undue stress and what action to take
- K17 who to report problems and potential difficulties to in relation to introducing the animal and the artiste to each other
- K18 the kind of **contingencies** that may commonly occur when working animals on set and the action to take
- K19 why handlers need to remain available on set when animals are working
- K20 care requirements for the animal following the performance

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Scope/range

Working conditions:

- 1 temperature
- 2 weather conditions
- 3 light
- 4 space
- 5 optimum working times
- 6 duration of time in action
- 7 animal's costume, make-up and accoutrements

Contingencies:

- 8 animal suffering stress
- 9 encountering difficulties working with the animal
- 10 production being postponed
- 11 animal not performing

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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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