
Overview

This standard focuses on the management of an animal therapy centre. This will include developing and implementing policies and procedures and ensuring compliance with animal health and welfare legislation.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) limits the activities that may be carried out by those who are not qualified veterinary surgeons. All activities should be carried out within the constraints of the Veterinary Surgeons Act and the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962.

Users of the standard will need to ensure that 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 working in the animal care sector with responsibility for the management of an animal therapy centre.

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Manage an animal therapy centre

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 work in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966), the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962 and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 maintain your own professional conduct and ethics and work within the requirements of the relevant professional organisation
- P3 comply with relevant animal health and welfare and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P4 develop and implement policies for the handling of animals when managing an animal therapy centre
- P5 develop and implement a plan for the provision of animal therapy with clearly defined **aims and policies**
- P6 develop, apply and monitor hygiene and bio-security policies for the therapy centre to minimise the risk of infection to animals and humans
- P7 implement a record system in accordance with legal requirements
- P8 ensure sufficient and consistent resources (including staffing) are available
- P9 ensure that everyone involved in the provision of animal therapy has the skills and knowledge required to carry out the activities safely and competently
- P10 provide facilities, supplies, equipment and any other resources required for the physical therapy of animals
- P11 develop and implement policies for the checking, servicing, maintenance and disposal of **equipment and resources**
- P12 ensure that risks to the health and safety of personnel or animals are identified and minimised
- P13 define contingency plans for dealing with problems that might arise e.g. health issues, emergencies, animal escapes or equipment failure
- P14 maintain professional working relationships with colleagues, clients, veterinary surgeons and other animal health and welfare professionals

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) and the Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962 in relation to your role and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- K2 your professional responsibilities and the importance of Continuing Professional Development to maintain professional competence
- 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 site hygiene and bio-security and how to produce procedures and protocols
- K6 the importance of maintaining client and patient confidentiality and the requirements of current data protection legislation
- K7 how to develop a plan for the provision of animal therapy with clearly defined aims and policies
- K8 the resources required, including staff, to provide physical therapy for animals
- K9 how to assess and minimise risks to personnel or other animals
- K10 requirements for the maintenance, storage, access and disposal of records
- K11 requirements for facilities, supplies, equipment and resources used for various animal rehabilitation treatments
- K12 where to obtain professional advice and guidance
- K13 the role of professional bodies and associations allied to animal therapy
- K14 the role and importance of communication with other animal-related professionals and para-professionals
- K15 your legal and professional liability when working as an animal health and welfare paraprofessional and the importance of appropriate insurance cover

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Scope/range

Aims and policies covering:

- 1 the range of therapy services provided and how the plan may vary by the service and requirements of individual animals and their owners
- 2 species included
- 3 the health and welfare needs of the animal are assessed and addressed
- 4 access and handling by people
- 5 interaction with other animals
- 6 safety and security requirements
- 7 emergency arrangements
- 8 access to and provision of veterinary attention
- 9 legislation and licensing requirements
- 10 appropriate insurances and liabilities
- 11 any special requirements or restrictions

Glossary

Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966):

It is illegal under the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) for non-veterinary surgeons to practise veterinary surgery.

The Act defines Veterinary Surgery as:

- the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;
- the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
- the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and
- the performance of surgical operations on animals.

The Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 1962 allows for the treatment of animals by physiotherapy, provided that the animal has first been seen by a veterinary surgeon who has diagnosed the condition and decided that it should be treated by physiotherapy under his/her direction.

"Physiotherapy" is interpreted as including all kinds of manipulative therapy. It therefore includes osteopathy and chiropractic but would not, for example, include acupuncture or aromatherapy.

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

Equipment and resources could include:

- water quality and levels
- use, storage and disposal of chemicals
- disposal of waste.
- treadmills and exercise equipment
- electrotherapy equipment
- restraining and control equipment e.g. headcollars, collars, leads

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