
Overview

This standard covers promoting and maintaining the health and welfare of animals. It covers the procedures required to maintain their welfare.

Maintaining the welfare of the animals includes such functions as minimising stress and the potential for injury. You must monitor and check the physical appearance, behaviour, posture, condition of the animals in accordance with the purpose for which the animals are being kept and the relationship of this to health, well-being and production/scientific requirements. Specific measures may be required such as making adjustments to environmental conditions or changing feed and water provision.

You must be able to recognise signs of a healthy animal, including normal variations in healthy animals, and signs of poor health or deviation from the animals' normal state of health and well-being. You will be expected to carry out specific measures including preventative care, environmental adjustment, alter feed and water provisions. This may be in the context of animals undergoing scientific procedures, where expected deviations must be recognised and monitored.

Your obligations under current legislation must be known and understood and where there is concern that an animal is suffering, the appropriate action must be taken. This may be to report the animal to the appropriate member of staff.

Where animals are undergoing scientific procedures, obligations to the personal licensee and reporting mechanisms for unexpected health concerns must be known. The Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) or other named person may need to be consulted.

This standard is for animal technologists in Home Office designated establishments.

It is essential that you work strictly within the limits of the relevant project licence at all times.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure safe practices and appropriate personal protective equipment are being used at all times
- P2 ensure that appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security are maintained
- P3 treat animals in a manner which complies with relevant legislation, minimises any likelihood of stress and injury, and maintains their health and well-being
- P4 provide animals with sufficient and effective opportunities to move, and maintain physical functioning
- P5 monitor the physical and behavioural condition of animals and recognise signs of health in normal animals including normal variations on healthy animals and report any abnormal signs
- P6 carry out specific measures to promote and maintain animals health and well-being correctly and safely
- P7 manage waste safely and correctly in accordance with legislative requirements
- P8 ensure appropriate records are maintained as required and comply with organisational and Home Office requirements
- P9 immediately summon assistance for any animal's health emergency, and initiate action appropriate to the situation
- P10 conduct all activities within the provision of the project licence
- P11 ensure all work is carried in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the importance and correct use of personal protective equipment when carrying out scientific or technical activities
- K2 the importance of ensuring appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security are maintained and how this can be achieved
- K3 how to promote the health and well-being of animals and minimise any stress and injury
- K4 organisational policy in relation to the treatment of animals
- K5 your responsibilities in relation to Home Office regulations
- K6 the contra-indications of medicines for research animals
- K7 the purpose for which the animals are being kept and the relationship of this to health and well-being
- K8 the appearance, posture and movement, behaviour and bodily functioning of healthy animals
- K9 signs which indicate potential problems with animals well-being, and the actions which should be taken,
- K10 the responsibilities of the personal licensee and correct reporting mechanisms when problems are identified
- K11 types of preventative care for maintaining the health and well-being of animals
- K12 how the environment may be adjusted for the health and well-being of the animals
- K13 the importance of an adequate supply of feed and water
- K14 the effects of stress on an animal and the impact this can have on results
- K15 how to recognise 'end points' and the action required when this has been reached
- K16 awareness of compromising phenotypes and the end-points pertaining to these
- K17 how to recognise a health emergency in an animal and the actions to take
- K18 the limits of your responsibility and ability in relation to health problems in animals
- K19 the legal and organisational requirements for the handling, storage and disposal of waste
- K20 the appropriate records that should be maintained and their significance
- K21 the correct procedures for reporting concerns
- K22 the provisions of the project licence
- K23 your responsibilities for the care and welfare of animals in a Home Office designated establishment under relevant animal welfare legislation, European directives and UK codes of practice

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K24 your responsibility under relevant environmental, health and safety and animal welfare legislation, codes of practice and company policies

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Suite Animal Technology

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