

Purpose Statement

SEG Awards Level 2 Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills – 501/0135/3

Overview

The suite of Skills and Education Group Awards qualifications in Animal Care is developed to provide you with opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills relating to the animal care sector, in preparation for further learning. Subjects covered include animal care and welfare, zoos/wildlife establishments, pet care and retail and animal training.

The SEG Awards Level 2 Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills flexible structure offers you the opportunity to select units that can be tailored into specialised learning packages in areas of interest that provide an incite of potential occupations and job roles within the animal care sector. The overall aim is to provide both skills experience and knowledge, through practical experience, on which to base future career and associated progression decisions for further and higher learning and ultimately employment in the animal care sector.

Benefits for learners

Undertaking this qualification allows you to:

- develop practical skills that will support those seeking a career in the animal care industry
- develop knowledge and understanding that could support further study within the animal care sector
- gain good working practices in relation to safety and the environment.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is designed for those of you aged 16 or over who are currently working in the Animal Care Sector, either in paid or unpaid employment, or for learners who wish to progress into employment or further study in the sector e.g.:

- school leavers who are keen to undertake a more practical qualification in a realistic working environment
- mature learners returning to study
- learners wanting to enhance future career opportunities
- learners wishing to work with companion animals

There are no formal qualification requirements for entry onto the Level 2 Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills. However, to fully benefit from this qualification, you may find it advisable to have some prior knowledge and understanding of Animal Care, depending upon your previous experience/learning, examples could include Level 1 Award/Certificate in Practical Small Animal Care Skills or Level 1 Award/Certificate in Practical Farm Animal Care Skills, or equivalent, but this is not essential.

You should seek appropriate advice and guidance on the suitability of the qualification level before embarking on a course of study.

What does this qualification cover?

The mandatory unit involves developing knowledge and skills required to promote and maintain the health and welfare of animals. This covers identification of abnormal signs, monitoring the animals and carrying out procedures to promote the health and welfare.

The pathway selection, if required covers the following areas:

- Animal Care and Welfare
- Zoos/Wildlife Establishments
- Pet care and Retail

You will cover aspects of maintaining animal accommodation; preparing feed for animals; providing feed and water; loading and unloading animals for transportation; provide controlled exercise opportunities for animals, maintaining the cleanliness and bio security of the animal care working environment and establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with others.

This 20 credit qualification has one 4 credit unit and the remaining 16 credits are selected from a variety of 2, 3, 4 or 5 credit optional units. All are vocational and relate to the sector in the title. Both the minimum and maximum vocational content is 100%.

The content of the qualification will support you to develop and expand your animal care skills, knowledge and understanding, at level 2.

You will produce a portfolio of evidence for example; observations, witness statements, group discussion observation sheets, case studies, reports/notes.

Practical Hours Requirement

There is no external practical hour requirements attached to these qualifications.

Assessments

This qualification is to be completed by portfolio submission including physical demonstration on live animals throughout units, with clear evidencing linked to

the relevant Assessment Criteria. Where physical demonstration is required, this needs to be observed and recorded by the tutor to support the overall qualification submission.

Unless stated otherwise, Skills and Education Group Awards require a minimum of three examples when learners are asked to demonstrate various methods or techniques. This requirement ensures that the learner shows a clear understanding of the assessment criteria.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment, and if so, in which job role and at what level?

The skills and knowledge you develop through completing this qualification will enhance employment prospects into the following roles:

- Pet shop assistant/retail assistant
- Animal care assistant
- Dog handler / trainer
- Animal boarding assistant

The above job roles are appropriate for you to complete an Intermediate (Level 2) Apprenticeship and on successful completion employment progression is possible into the following roles (at Level 3) with further training:

- Zoo/animal keeper
- Animal / dog trainer
- Dog warden
- Animal management technician

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

Successful completion of the Level 2 Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills provides you with a sound preparation for further vocational training, such as continuing onto other related qualifications at Level 3 or Apprenticeships at Level 2 or 3 in Animal Care.

Further Education

- Level 3 Award or Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills
- Level 3 Certificate in Animal Management
- Level 3 Diploma or Extended Diploma in Animal Management

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification or it is available at different skills levels, why should a student take this particular one?

The SEG Awards Level 2 Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills is part of a small suite of qualifications:

- Level 2 Award in Practical Animal Care Skills
- Level 2 Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills

The reason for having the varying sizes of qualification in the suite at level 2 is to meet the various needs of you the learner.

The Award sized qualification is appropriate for you as an introductory qualification, providing an understanding of animal care and provides an overview of potential occupations and job roles at Level 2.

The Certificate sized qualification is appropriate for you if you have completed the Level 2 Award and are committed to further learning through a bite sized approach, or for more motivated learners who are ready to make a longer commitment to learning, without first undertaking the smaller qualification.

This Certificate allows you to develop across a broader area depending on your specific needs and interests. Having qualifications of various sizes within the suite provides you with opportunities to add further units at a later stage, as a progression route to another size (e.g. Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Animal Care) or level (Level 3 Award/Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills) of qualification for progression to other qualifications. The different size qualifications add depth and breadth to the specialism being studied without duplicating the learning covered by each qualification.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the qualifications can be found at on the Skills and Education Group website.