

Purpose Statement

ABC Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants (600/0221/9)

Overview

The ABC Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants qualification is designed to provide individuals with an opportunity to develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills relating to veterinary nursing, in preparation for further learning and a career in animal care or Veterinary Nursing, based within a Veterinary Practice.

The Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants is held in high regard in veterinary practices, providing an alternative route to GCSE's and enhanced your opportunities to progress to the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

The ABC Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants flexible structure offers you the opportunity to select units that can be tailored into specialised learning packages in areas of interest. 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.

This valued practical qualification covers a number of units including Anatomy and Physiology, Principles of Infection Control and Parasitology and Zoonosis. It provides you with the information required to play a valuable support role to qualified veterinary staff and to assist owners in the correct management of their companion animals. Further to this, you have the opportunity to learn basic practice reception skills and retailing of products.

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 can support further study within the animal care sector
- gain good working practices in relation to safety and the environment

Who is this qualification for?

The Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants is suitable for you who are 16+ who have insufficient GCSEs to register as a student veterinary nurse, non-qualified veterinary staff and those wishing to work with companion animals 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

There are no formal qualification requirements for entry onto the Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants. 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 the qualification cover?

The mandatory units cover aspects:

- **Deliver basic treatments to animals** – developing the skills and knowledge to deliver treatments including cleaning and hygiene procedures, basic health care treatments and other routine procedures.
- **Maintain animal accommodation** - developing the skills and knowledge to maintain environmental conditions, carry out cleaning and replacing any ancillary materials.
- **Provide feed and water to animals** – developing the knowledge and skills required to select the correct feed and providing clean, fresh water according to a feeding plan.
- **Principles of infection control for animal nursing assistants** – developing the knowledge and understanding of infectious organisms and how these cause clinical disease in animals. This includes the importance of how to prevent the spread of infection, to maintain asepsis and sterility in the clinical environment.
- **Companion animal anatomy and physiology** – developing an introductory knowledge of anatomy and physiology focusing upon the major body systems.

The optional units cover a range of animal care aspects related to the welfare of animals for e.g.:

- Control and restrain animals
- Provide controlled exercise opportunities for animals
- Principles of companion animal anaesthesia and fluid therapy
- Companion animal nutrition
- Keep stock on sale at required levels in a retail environment
- Exotic animal anatomy and physiology
- Principles of companion animal pharmacy

This 32 credit qualification has five mandatory units: three 3 credit units and two 5 credit units. The remaining 13 credits are selected from a variety of 2, 3, 4 or 8 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 veterinary nursing/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.

The assessment of some knowledge and understanding may take place in a non-work based environment e.g. training centre, however will link directly to workplace performance and include performance evidence. Your practical assessment activities will be supervised appropriately. You may be of an employed, voluntary or non-employed status, but you will gain real experience of a veterinary care environment through this qualification.

If you select the following unit the assessment will be by externally set questions which will be internally assessed and externally moderated:

- Companion animal anatomy and physiology.

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:

- Veterinary Care Assistant
- Animal Nursing 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:

- Veterinary Nurse - Small Animal or Equine
- Head Veterinary Nurse

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

Successful completion of the Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants 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 Veterinary Nursing or Animal Care.

Further Education

- Level 3 Certificate in Practical Animal Care
- Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing – Small Animal
- Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing - Equine
- Level 3 Certificate in Animal Management
- Level 3 Diploma or Extended Diploma in Animal Management

Work-Based learning

- Level 2 Diploma for Work-based Animal Nursing Assistants – Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Level 2 Diploma in Work-based Animal Care – Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing - Advanced Apprenticeship in Veterinary Nursing (*Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants maybe acceptable for entry onto the Advanced Apprenticeship*)

- Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Animal Care – Advanced Apprenticeship in Animal Care

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 ABC Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants is part of a small suite of qualifications:

- Level 2 Award for Animal Nursing Assistants
- Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants

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 the principles of basic animal nursing as an assistant.

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.

Who supports the qualification?

Further and Higher Education

Further Education Colleges and Training Providers who support and offer this qualification can be found on our website.

Further Information

The Certificate is offered at a range of colleges and training centres so to find out if this qualification is offered near where you live please access:

<http://www.abcawards.co.uk/learners/>

Further information on the qualification can be found at:

<http://www.abcawards.co.uk/Landbased/Animal Care/Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants>