

Purpose Statement

SEG Awards Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants – 610/1050/9

Overview

The SEG Awards 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 SEG Awards Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants is held in high regard in veterinary practices and enhances your opportunities to progress to the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

The 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.

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 SEG Awards Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants is suitable for learners aged 16+ who would like 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 this qualification cover?

The mandatory units cover aspects:

- **Introduction to Animal Anatomy and Physiology** – developing knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of major body systems, in addition to using correct terminology when describing animal anatomy and physiology.
- **Provide Basic Nursing Treatments to Animals** – developing the skills and knowledge to deliver treatments including cleaning and hygiene procedures, basic health care treatments and other routine procedures.
- **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.
- **Maintain Animal Accommodation** - developing the skills and knowledge to maintain environmental conditions, carry out cleaning and replacing any ancillary materials.
- **Provide Nutrition to Animals** – developing the knowledge and skills required to select the correct feed and providing clean, fresh water according to a feeding plan.

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

- Handling and Restraint of Animals
- Provide Opportunities for Animals to Exercise
- Principles of Companion Animal Anaesthesia and Fluid Therapy
- Veterinary Reception and Customer Care
- Introduction to Comparative Animal Anatomy and Physiology

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.

For the 'Introduction to Animal Anatomy and Physiology' unit, the assessment will be by externally set, online multiple-choice question examination. Practice material is available in the form of a sample multiple-choice question paper.

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.

Alongside the portfolio submission, Learners will be required to complete an online MCQ assessment, Level 2 Introduction to Animal Anatomy and Physiology v2.

Centres must take all reasonable steps to avoid any part of the assessment of a learner (including any internal quality assurance and invigilation) being undertaken by any person who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment.

For both online and paper assessments, learners are allowed to use a HB pencil and blank paper for notes.

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

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

Successful completion of the SEG Awards 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. Including:

- 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

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 for Animal Nursing Assistants is part of a small suite of qualifications:

- SEG Awards Level 2 Award for Animal Nursing Assistants
- SEG Awards 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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