

SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Small Animal First Aid

England – 610/4658/9

About Us

At Skills and Education Group Awards we continually invest in high quality qualifications, assessments and services for our chosen sectors. As a UK leading sector specialist, we continue to support employers and skills providers to enable individuals to achieve the skills and knowledge needed to raise professional standards across our sectors.

Skills and Education Group Awards have an on-line registration system to help customers register learners on its qualifications, units and exams. In addition, it provides features to view exam results, invoices, mark sheets and other information about learners already registered.

The system is accessed via a web browser by connecting to our secure website using a username and password: [Skills and Education Group Awards Secure Login](#)

Sources of Additional Information

The [Skills and Education Group Awards](#) website provides access to a wide variety of information.

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Specification Code

The specification code is A9270-03.

Issue	Date	Details of change
1.0	September 2024	New Qualification Guide

2.0	November 2024	Update to the Health Status and First Aid Unit – generalising the unit and including the reference to 'live/dummy animals' in summary. No changes to the LOs or ACs.
2.1	November 2025	Added paragraph under Assessment heading to clarify the number of examples required when learners are asked to demonstrate various methods or techniques
3.0	April 2026	Overall qualification credit value increased from 3 to 4. Unit Small Animal Health Status and First Aid credit value increased from 3 to 4.
3.1	August 2026	Updated to new company branding

This guide should be read in conjunction with the Indicative Content document which is available on our secure website using the link above.

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This is a live document and as such will be updated when required. It is the responsibility of the approved centre to ensure the most up-to-date version of the Qualification Specification is in use. Any amendments will be published on our website and centres are encouraged to check this site regularly.

Qualification Summary

SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Small Animal First Aid – 610/4658/9								
Qualification Purpose	This qualification has been designed with the purpose to ensure that Learners are fully prepared and capable to respond to small animal emergencies. This qualification has been written in line with current legislation including the basic skills, knowledge and behaviours learners are required to have in order to appropriately and calmly respond to small animal common emergencies. With occupations increasing by 9% within Animal Care Services over the past three years, with a predicted continued increase of 3% in the next 3 years, it is essential that First Aid is included and learnt by all involved with caring for a small animal.							
Age Range	Pre 16		16-18		18+	✓	19+	✓
Regulation	The above qualifications are regulated by Ofqual							
Assessment	> Portfolio of Evidence > Assignment > Practical Observation							
Type of Funding Available	See FaLA (Find a Learning Aim)							
Grading	Pass/Fail only To achieve a Pass, learners must complete all units as stated in the rule of combination (RoC)							
Operational Start Date	01/09/2024							
Review Date	01/09/2027							
Operational End Date								
Certification End Date								
Guided Learning (GL)	30							

Total Qualification Time (TQT)	40
Credit Value	4
Skills and Education Group Awards Sector	Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care
Regulator Sector	3.3 - Animal Care and Veterinary Science
Support from Trade Associations	Canine Hydrotherapy Association

Introduction

The SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Small Animal First Aid has been designed to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours within First Aid for small animals.

Pre-requisites

There are no formal entry requirements for undertaking this qualification however, it is expected for learners to understand the importance of small animal wellbeing and some experience of working with small animals whether in a professional or personal capacity. The minimum age to apply for this qualification is 18 years of age.

Skills and Education Group Awards expects approved centres to recruit with integrity on the basis of a trainee's ability to contribute to and successfully complete all the requirements of a unit(s) or the full qualification.

Qualification Structure and Rules of Combination

Rules of Combination: Level 3 Award in Small Animal First Aid

Learners must achieve 4 credits. All credits must come from the 1 mandatory unit.

Unit Title	Unit Number	Level	Credit Value	GL
Mandatory Group Minimum Credit Target - 4				
Small Animal Health Status and First Aid	K/651/2828	3	4	30

Aim

The SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Small Animal First Aid has been launched in line with legislation requirements, ensuring that practitioners working alongside small animals meet industry standards and work in line with regulatory guidelines.

This qualification provides the learners with the chance to develop their knowledge and skills further in ensuring that all emergency situations are dealt with appropriately and professionally, keeping the small animal's welfare at the forefront of their actions.

This qualification has been designed to be undertaken alongside other Skills and Education Group Awards qualifications focusing on small animals, specifically the Level 3 Certificate in Small Animal Hydrotherapy.

Target Group

The SEG Awards Level 3 Award in Small Animal First Aid has been designed for learners of the age of 18 and over, who would like to progress within an occupation with small animals, currently working with small animals or who have previous qualifications and experience with working with small animals.

Assessment

This qualification is to be completed by portfolio submission including physical demonstration on live / dummy animals throughout the unit, with clear evidencing linked to the relevant Assessment Criteria.

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.

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

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.

Resources

Skills and Education Group Awards provides the following additional resources for this qualification:

- > Purpose Statement
- > Learner Unit Achievement Checklist
- > Indicative Content

Practice Assessment Material

Skills and Education Group Awards confirm that there is no practice assessment material for this qualification.

Teaching Strategies and Learning Activities

Centres should adopt a delivery approach which supports the development of all individuals. The aims and aspirations of all the learners, including those with identified special needs or learning difficulties/disabilities, should be considered and appropriate support mechanisms put in place.

Progression Opportunities

By obtaining this qualification, Learners will have the necessary skills and knowledge to allow them the opportunity to potentially progress into employment within working with small animals.

This qualification goes hand in hand with all of Skills and Education Group Awards regulated qualifications within the Animal Care sector, supporting learners' knowledge and experience in animal care first aid requirements, which is essential when working with any small animal, in any capacity.

The one unit from this qualification is also in the SEG Awards Level 3 in Small Animal Hydrotherapy qualification.

Centres should be aware that Reasonable Adjustments, which may be permitted for assessment, may in some instances limit a learner's progression into the sector. Centres must, therefore, inform learners of any limits their learning difficulty may impose on future progression.

Tutor / Assessor Requirements

Skills and Education Group Awards require those involved in the teaching and assessment process to be suitably experienced and / or qualified. Assessors should also be trained and qualified to assess or be working towards appropriate qualifications.

Those responsible for Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) must be knowledgeable of the subject/occupational area to a suitable level to carry out accurate quality assurance practices and processes.

Language

This specification and associated assessment materials are in English only.

Unit Details

Small Animal Health Status and First Aid		
Unit Reference	K/651/2828	
Level	3	
Credit Value	4	
Guided Learning (GL)	30	
Unit Summary	In this unit, Learners will understand the importance of maintaining the health and welfare for each small animal patient in their care. Learners will be able to undertake health checks essential for safe practice. Learners will be able to recognise and manage a variety of small animal first aid emergencies. It is always imperative that learners act within their area of professional competence and personal limitations. This unit is a knowledge and skill-based unit, requiring some physical demonstrations.	
Learning Outcomes (1 to 5)	Assessment Criteria (1.1 to 5.2)	
The learner will	The learner can	
1. Be able to understand key principles of small animal first aid	1.1	Identify the three aims of first aid
	1.2	Identify the four rules of first aid
	1.3	Explain the current legal and ethical restrictions and limitations that would affect the response in an emergency
2. Be able to categorise small animal emergencies	2.1	Identify three life threatening small animal emergencies

	2.2	Describe the clinical signs of three life threatening small animal emergencies
	2.3	Identify three small animal emergencies requiring immediate action
	2.4	Describe the clinical signs of three small animal emergencies requiring immediate action
	2.5	Identify three minor small animal emergencies
	2.6	Describe the clinical signs of three minor small animal emergencies
3. Be able to recognise and manage small animal emergency situations	3.1	Describe the differences between death, unconsciousness and collapse in a small animal patient
	3.2	Describe the clinical signs and management of a small animal patient suffering from shock
	3.3	Describe the clinical signs and management of different types of haemorrhage in a small animal patient
	3.4	Describe the clinical signs and management of a small animal patient in respiratory distress
	3.5	Describe the clinical signs and management of water intoxication, drowning and secondary drowning in the small animal patient
	3.6	Describe the clinical signs and management of a small animal patient experiencing a seizure
4. Be able to apply first aid in small animal emergency situations	4.1	Justify the resuscitation procedure appropriate for a specified small animal emergency situation

	4.2	Demonstrate the resuscitation procedure appropriate for a specified small animal emergency situation
	4.3	Demonstrate at least two bandaging techniques appropriate for specified small animal emergency situations
5. Be able to understand how health checks monitor and evaluate a small animal patients' health status	5.1	Describe what is considered as a healthy small animal, suitable for a health care practice
	5.2	Identify a range of health checks appropriate for a health care practice
Links to National Occupational Standards LANAnC28 - Provide first aid to animals		

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Exemptions, Credit Transfers and Equivalencies

Skills and Education Group Awards policy enables learners to avoid duplication of learning and assessment in a number of ways:

- > **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** – a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess and do not need to develop through a course of learning.
- > **Exemption** - Exemption applies to any certificated achievement which is deemed to be of equivalent value to a unit within Skills and Education Group Awards qualification but which does not necessarily share the exact learning outcomes and assessment criteria. It is the assessor's responsibility, in conjunction with the Internal Moderator, to map this previous achievement against the assessment requirements of the Skills and Education Group Awards qualification to be achieved in order to determine its equivalence.
 - > Any queries about the relevance of any certificated evidence should be referred in the first instance to your centre's internal moderator and then to Skills and Education Group Awards.
 - > It is important to note that there may be restrictions upon a learner's ability to claim exemption or credit transfer which will be dependent upon the currency of the unit/qualification and a learner's existing levels of skill or knowledge.
 - > Where past certification only provides evidence that could be considered for exemption of part of a unit, learners must be able to offer additional evidence of previous or recent learning to supplement their evidence of achievement.
- > **Credit Transfer** – Skills and Education Group Awards may attach credit to a qualification, a unit or a component. Credit transfer is the process of using certificated credits achieved in one qualification and transferring that achievement as a valid contribution to the award of another qualification. Units/Components transferred must share the same learning outcomes and assessment criteria along with the same unit number. Assessors must ensure that they review and verify the evidence through sight of:
 - > Original certificates OR
 - > Copies of certificates that have been signed and dated by the internal moderator confirming the photocopy is a real copy and make these available for scrutiny by the External Moderator.
- > **Equivalencies** – opportunities to count credits from the unit(s) from other qualifications or from unit(s) submitted by other recognised organisations towards the place of mandatory or optional unit(s) specified in the rule of combination. The unit must have the same credit value or greater than the unit(s) in question and be at the same level or higher.

Skills and Education Group Awards encourages its centres to recognise the previous achievements of learners through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Exemption, Credit Transfer and Equivalencies. Prior achievements may have resulted from past or present employment, previous study or voluntary activities. Centres should provide advice and guidance to the learner on what is appropriate evidence and present that evidence to the external moderator in the usual way.

Further guidance can be found in 'Delivering and Assessing Skills and Education Group Awards Qualifications' which can be downloaded from skillsandeducationgroupawards.co.uk/for-centres

Certification

Learners will be certificated for all units and qualifications that are achieved and claimed.

Skills and Education Group Awards' policies and procedures are available on the website.

Exemptions

This qualification contains no exemptions. For further details see Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Exemptions, Credit Transfers and Equivalencies.

Glossary of Terms

GL (Guided Learning)

GL is where the learner participates in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of a tutor (or other appropriate provider of education or training). It may be helpful to think – ‘Would I need to plan for a member of staff to be present to give guidance or supervision?’

GL is calculated at qualification level and not unit/component level.

Examples of Guided Learning include:

- > Face-to-face meeting with a tutor
- > Telephone conversation with a tutor
- > Instant messaging with a tutor
- > Taking part in a live webinar
- > Classroom-based instruction
- > Supervised work
- > Taking part in a supervised or invigilated formative assessment
- > The learner is being observed as part of a formative assessment.

TQT (Total Qualification Time)

The number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required, in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.’ The size of a qualification is determined by the TQT.

TQT is made up of the Guided Learning (GL) plus all other time taken in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training but not under the direct supervision of a lecturer, supervisor or tutor.

TQT is calculated at qualification level and not unit/component level.

Examples of unsupervised activities that could contribute to TQT include:

- > Researching a topic and writing a report
- > Watching an instructional online video at home/e-learning
- > Watching a recorded webinar
- > Compiling a portfolio in preparation for assessment
- > Completing an unsupervised practical activity or work
- > Rehearsing a presentation away from the classroom
- > Practising skills unsupervised
- > Requesting guidance via email – will not guarantee an immediate response.