

Title:	Health and Safety for Animal Care Settings
Level:	Level 1
Credit value:	2
GLH:	18
Unique Reference Number:	F/651/9928
Sector Subject Area:	14.1 Foundations for Learning and Life
Aim:	The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills to understand why health and safety is essential in animal care settings. Learners will develop an awareness of common risks, safe working practices, and their responsibilities for keeping themselves, others, and animals safe while carrying out animal care activities in a supervised role.
Assessment Type:	Assessment of this unit will be through an internally set and internally assessed portfolio of evidence.
Assessment Guidance:	<p>Assessment decisions for skills-based learning outcomes must be made during the learner's normal work activity and direct observation should form the main source of evidence, supported by discussion, annotated photographs, or witness statements.</p> <p>Skills-based assessment must be carried out over an appropriate period of time.</p> <p>Evidence must confirm that the learner can describe common health and safety risks in animal care settings, explain safe working practices, and outline their responsibilities for maintaining safety. Assessment decisions should be based on discussion, written work, or structured questioning. This unit does not require learners to carry out risk assessments independently or to use equipment without supervision.</p>

Learning outcomes

The learner will:

1. Understand common health and safety risks in animal care settings.

Delivery content:

The aim of this learning outcome is to provide the learners with the knowledge and skills to recognise common hazards found in animal care environments. Learners should explore how risks can arise from animals, equipment, environments, and working practices, and why recognising risks is essential for preventing accidents and injuries.

The learner must:

- 1.1 Identify common **health and safety risks** in animal care settings.
- 1.2 Describe how **hazards in animal care environments** can cause harm.

2. Understand safe working practices in animal care settings.

Delivery content:

The aim of this learning outcome is to provide the learners with the knowledge and skills to understand how safe working practices reduce risk. Learners should explore simple safety measures, following instructions, and the importance of using equipment and facilities correctly while working with animals.

The learner must:

- 2.1 Describe **safe working practices** in animal care settings.
- 2.2 Explain the importance of following **health and safety procedures**.

3. Be able to describe personal responsibilities for health and safety.

Delivery content:

The aim of this learning outcome is to provide the learners with the knowledge and skills to understand their own role in maintaining health and safety. Learners should explore personal responsibility, reporting concerns, and working within the limits of their role to support a safe animal care environment.

The learner must:

- 3.1 Describe **personal responsibilities for health and safety** in animal care settings.
- 3.2 Explain when and how to **report health and safety concerns**.

Scope of Training

The Scope of Training identifies areas that must be covered during the delivery of this unit. This is the minimum that is expected but tutors are expected to include other areas, knowledge of which will benefit their learners, based on location, types of work available and from the tutors own professional experience.

Requirements

<p>Health and safety risks:</p>	<p>Definition: Potential sources of harm that could cause injury, illness, or accidents in animal care settings.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks related to animals, such as bites or scratches. • Environmental risks, including uneven surfaces or wet areas. • Risks linked to equipment or tools. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks caused by poor housekeeping. • Risks linked to noise, smells, or waste. • How risks may change in different animal care settings.
<p>Hazards in animal care environments:</p>	<p>Definition: Anything in the animal care environment that could cause harm if not managed safely.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of common hazards in animal housing areas. • How animals themselves can be a hazard. • Why some hazards are not always obvious. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal hazards such as ice or heat. • Hazards linked to cleaning products. • Shared spaces used by people and animals.
<p>Safe working practices:</p>	<p>Definition: Ways of working that reduce risk and help prevent accidents and injuries.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following instructions and supervision. • Using equipment correctly and safely. • Maintaining tidy and organised work areas. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple personal protective equipment. • Safe movement around animals. • Safe behaviour when working with others.

Health and safety procedures:	<p>Definition: Agreed rules and steps that help keep people and animals safe.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why procedures exist. • The importance of consistency. • Following site-specific rules. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency procedures. • Procedures for dealing with incidents. • Procedures for cleaning and waste disposal.
Personal responsibilities for health and safety:	<p>Definition: What an individual must do to help maintain a safe working environment.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking care of personal safety. • Acting responsibly around animals. • Working within personal ability and training. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting others to work safely. • Being aware of personal behaviour. • Asking for help when unsure.
Reporting health and safety concerns:	<p>Definition: Passing on information about risks, hazards, or incidents to the appropriate person.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When concerns should be reported. • Who concerns should be reported to. • Why reporting is important. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of concerns that should be reported. • How reporting helps prevent accidents. • The role of communication in safety.