

Title:	Introduction to Animal Enrichment
Level:	Level 1
Credit value:	2
GLH:	18
Unique Reference Number:	D/651/9927
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 support animal wellbeing through simple enrichment activities under supervision. Learners will carry out basic enrichment tasks, observe animal responses, and follow instructions to ensure enrichment is provided safely and appropriately. This unit supports employability by developing practical skills commonly required in entry-level animal care roles.
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 provide simple enrichment activities safely, follow instructions, and work within their level of responsibility under supervision.</p>

Learning outcomes

The learner will:

1. Be able to carry out simple animal enrichment activities.

Delivery content:

The aim of this learning outcome is to provide the learners with the knowledge and skills to carry out basic enrichment activities that support animal comfort and engagement. Learners should practise preparing and providing enrichment activities as instructed, ensuring activities are suitable for the animals and environment.

The learner must demonstrate that they can:

<p>1.1 Carry out simple animal enrichment activities as instructed.</p> <p>1.2 Use appropriate enrichment materials safely.</p>
<p>2. Be able to observe animals' responses to enrichment activities.</p>
<p>Delivery content:</p> <p>The aim of this learning outcome is to provide the learners with the knowledge and skills to observe how animals respond to enrichment activities. Learners should practise watching animals calmly and noting responses such as interest, interaction, or avoidance, without interpreting or judging behaviour.</p> <p>The learner must demonstrate that they are able to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2.1 Observe animals' responses to enrichment activities.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2.2 Notice changes in behaviour or engagement during enrichment.</p>
<p>3. Be able to follow safe and responsible practices when providing enrichment.</p>
<p>Delivery content:</p> <p>The aim of this learning outcome is to provide the learners with the knowledge and skills to provide enrichment safely and responsibly. Learners should practise following instructions, working calmly around animals, and reporting any issues identified during enrichment activities.</p> <p>The learner must demonstrate that they are able to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3.1 Follow safe working practices when providing enrichment.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3.2 Report problems or concerns appropriately.</p>

<p>Scope of Training</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Requirements</p>	
<p>Simple animal enrichment activities:</p>	<p>Definition:</p> <p>Basic activities or items provided to animals to encourage natural behaviour and engagement.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing enrichment suitable for the animal and setting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following instructions for placement or use of enrichment. • Removing enrichment if instructed. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of enrichment for different animals. • Demonstrations of simple enrichment activities. • Discussion of why enrichment is important.
<p>Appropriate enrichment materials:</p>	<p>Definition: Items used to provide enrichment that are safe and suitable for the animals.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using materials approved for the setting. • Checking materials for safety before use. • Handling materials safely. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing different types of enrichment materials. • Identifying unsuitable or damaged materials. • Storage of enrichment items.
<p>Animals' responses to enrichment:</p>	<p>Definition: How animals react or respond when enrichment is provided.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching animals during enrichment. • Noting interest or lack of interest. • Maintaining safe distance where required. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in responses between animals. • Observing responses at different times. • Tutor-led discussion of observed responses.
<p>Changes in behaviour or engagement:</p>	<p>Definition: Differences in how animals behave or interact during enrichment activities.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticing increased or reduced engagement. • Recognising calm or unsettled responses. • Observing without attempting to interpret causes.

	<p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of positive engagement. • Discussion of why responses may vary. • Recording simple observations.
<p>Safe working practices:</p>	<p>Definition: Ways of working that reduce risk to people and animals during enrichment activities.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following supervision and instructions. • Working calmly around animals. • Being aware of surroundings. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of basic personal protective equipment if required. • Safe positioning when placing enrichment. • Maintaining tidy work areas.
<p>Problems or concerns:</p>	<p>Definition: Issues identified during enrichment activities that may affect safety or animal welfare.</p> <p>Teaching must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising damaged or unsafe enrichment items. • Reporting concerns to a supervisor. • Understanding why prompt reporting is important. <p>Teaching could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of common enrichment-related issues. • Discussion of what to do if animals react unexpectedly. • Practising how to report concerns clearly.