



CENTRAL QUALIFICATIONS™

Level 2 Diploma in Animal Nursing – 600/7218/0

QUALIFICATION OVERVIEW

The Diploma in Animal Nursing aims to prepare and support students for a career as a veterinary nurse assistant and will allow them to work confidently and competently in veterinary environments, such as veterinary practice and veterinary referral centres as a senior member of the nursing assistant team. In addition, it provides progression onto further qualifications including the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. (Please note that there are additional requirements for progression onto the DipVN such as GCSEs; contact CQ for further advice).

The key purposes of the qualification are:

- to give students the ability to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to work safely and competently
- to allow students to grow as individuals and give them the chance to learn life skills essential for working in a veterinary practice environment and other similar workplaces
- to give students the confidence and ability to supervise areas of the veterinary practice environment and other similar workplaces
- to provide a progression onto other qualifications and within employment

The programme will include a balance of practical learning, theoretical teaching and will use a variety of strategies to ensure students can undertake tasks proficiently.

Practical work-based learning outcomes are incorporated throughout the syllabus. Practical skills will also be supported within taught programmes and through teaching and supervised experience in a clinical veterinary practice.

Placements in veterinary training practices will allow the acquisition of skills and will enable students to become competent and confident in a veterinary environment.

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

All units are mandatory

Unit Code	Unit Number	Title of Unit	Level	Credits
L/504/1900	AN1	Principles of supporting veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals	2	5
R/504/1901	AN2	Practical support of veterinary nursing care for hospitalised patients	2	5
Y/504/4900	AN3	Principles of supporting veterinary medicine supply	2	5
D/504/4901	AN4	Principles of supporting diagnostic imaging	2	5
H/504/4902	AN5	Principles of supporting laboratory diagnostics	2	10
K/504/4903	AN6	Principles of assisting the veterinary operating theatre nurse	2	10
M/504/4904	AN7	Principles of preparing equipment and animals for anaesthesia	2	10
T/504/4905	AN8	Practical preparation of equipment and animals for anaesthesia	2	10
A/504/4906	AN9	Principles of supporting peri-operative animal nursing	2	10
Y/504/1902	AN10	Practical support of peri-operative animal nursing	2	5
F/504/4907	AN11	Principles of providing animal nursing support to small animals	2	10
H/504/1899	AN12	Practical animal nursing support of small animal patients	2	5
J/504/4908	AN13	Principles of assisting and supporting small animal emergency care	2	10
M/601/6871	VN1	Understanding the operational requirements of a veterinary practice	3	10
J/601/6956	VN2	Professional relationships and communication for veterinary nursing practice	3	10
K/601/6965	VN3	Comparative functional anatomy for veterinary nursing practice	3	20
J/601/7170	VN4	Applied animal welfare, health and husbandry for veterinary nurses	3	20
L/601/7171	VN5	Infection control in veterinary practice	3	5



AN1

OUTCOME 1

OUTLINE HOW TO ASSESS THE CONDITION OF PATIENTS

1. Outline how a nursing model is used to inform patient assessment
2. Outline an appropriate assessment protocol to examine an animal
3. Outline how to record and monitor vital signs

OUTCOME 2

OUTLINE THE USE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION FOR HOSPITALISED ANIMALS

1. Outline the requirements of hospital accommodation for small animals
2. Outline safety considerations in relation to the use of accommodation and associated equipment

OUTCOME 3

OUTLINE THE NURSING CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SPECIES

1. Outline principles of species-specific medical and surgical nursing

OUTCOME 4

BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A NURSING CARE PLAN

1. Demonstrate how nursing activities contribute to the review of patient care plans

OUTCOME 5

KNOW HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Describe requirements for the safe disposal of used equipment and surplus medication

AN2

OUTCOME 1

BE ABLE TO SUPPORT AND MONITOR THE CONDITIONS OF IN-PATIENTS

1. Monitor and report the animal's physical condition and behaviour at suitable intervals
2. Monitor and record vital signs
3. Monitor and record levels of consciousness
4. Observe and monitor bodily functions
5. Monitor and record signs of pain and/or stress
6. Report and record observations of in-patients effectively to colleagues

OUTCOME 2

BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE HYGIENE OF IN-PATIENTS

1. Clean, prepare and maintain accommodation for in-patients
2. Demonstrate maintenance of hygiene for individual in-patients
3. Demonstrate appropriate methods of handling and disposing of soiled and infected material

OUTCOME 3

BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOOD AND FLUIDS TO IN-PATIENTS

1. Prepare appropriate food and fluids for patients
2. Demonstrate methods of assisted feeding
3. Assist in the monitoring and maintenance of intravenous fluid therapy
4. Monitor and record fluid and dietary intake



OUTCOME 4

BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE MOBILITY AND BEHAVIOURAL REQUIREMENTS OF IN-PATIENTS

1. Provide care for in-patients with compromised mobility
2. Use strategies to address the psychological needs of in-patients

OUTCOME 5

BE ABLE TO APPLY SIMPLE WOUND DRESSINGS AND BANDAGES

1. Perform a simple wound dressing
2. Apply safe and effective simple bandages
3. Demonstrate safe and effective strategies to prevent patient wound or dressing interference

OUTCOME 6

BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF MEDICATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION

1. Demonstrate an understanding of veterinary prescriptions and assist in the preparation of medications for administration
2. Dispose of used equipment and surplus medication appropriately and safely
3. Assist in the recording of the administration of medicines and monitoring its effect on the animal

AN3

OUTCOME 1

DESCRIBE THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO THE STORAGE AND SUPPLY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

1. Describe the legislation in relation to veterinary medicines

OUTCOME 2

KNOW HOW TO ASSIST IN THE SUPPLY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES TO CLIENTS

1. Describe the requirements for a legal veterinary prescription
2. Describe commonly used pharmacy terminology and abbreviations
3. Summarise requirements for the packaging and labelling of veterinary medicines
4. Outline the principles involved in the calculation and dispensing of appropriate quantities of medication
5. Describe how to dispense medications safely and effectively

OUTCOME 3

OUTLINE THE PRINCIPLES OF PHARMACODYNAMICS

1. Describe factors that can affect duration of action
2. Outline the mechanisms for reporting adverse reactions

OUTCOME 4

KNOW HOW TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO CLIENTS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

1. Describe information that should be provided to a client concerning the administration of a prescribed medication

AN4

OUTCOME 1

OUTLINE THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATING RADIOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT IN A VETERINARY PRACTICE

1. Outline the legal requirements for radiography in veterinary practice
2. Outline the requirements for exposure risk assessment and monitoring
3. Outline requirements for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when dealing with radiation



OUTCOME 2

OUTLINE THE PRINCIPLES OF RADIOGRAPHY

1. Outline the types of image that can be produced using radiation
2. Outline the design features and maintenance of a radiography facility
3. Outline the use of cassettes and grids
4. Outline how to vary exposure factors

OUTCOME 3

OUTLINE THE PRINCIPLES OF ADJUVANT IMAGING TECHNIQUES

1. Outline the care and maintenance of ultrasound equipment
2. Outline the principles of endoscopy and the care, maintenance and storage of equipment

OUTCOME 4

DESCRIBE HOW TO TAKE RADIOGRAPHS

1. Describe methods of patient restraint for radiographic examination
2. Outline standard radiographic positions and the use of positioning aids

OUTCOME 5

DESCRIBE HOW TO PROCESS RADIOGRAPHS

1. Describe the principles of wet film processing
2. Outline the advantages and limitations of digital radiography

AN5

OUTCOME 1

DESCRIBE THE FUNCTION AND USE OF COMMONLY USED LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

1. Describe the requirements for the safe use of commonly used laboratory equipment

OUTCOME 2

DESCRIBE HOW TO COLLECT AND PREPARE SPECIMENS FOR EXAMINATION

1. Describe equipment and materials required for sample collection, preservation and transport
2. Describe how to prepare animals for the collection of samples

OUTCOME 3

OUTLINE HOW TO TEST PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

1. Outline how to use commercial test kits effectively
2. Describe how to dispose of surplus pathological material and reagents safely

OUTCOME 4

OUTLINE HOW TO PREPARE SPECIMENS FOR TRANSPORTATION

1. Outline the requirements for the safe transport of specimens
2. Outline how to store specimens safely and effectively prior to despatch

AN6

OUTCOME 1

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF OPERATING THEATRE DESIGN AND USE

1. Explain the principles of operating theatre design, to include clean and dirty areas, heating, lighting, ventilation and circulation of personnel and materials
2. Explain effective operating theatre protocols, to include daily and periodic cleaning of environment, furniture and equipment
3. Explain the principles of planning an operating list



OUTCOME 2

BE ABLE TO DRESS AND BEHAVE APPROPRIATELY IN AN OPERATING THEATRE

1. Behave appropriately in an operating theatre, to include communication, movement, personal hygiene, safety of self and others
2. Demonstrate effective hand-hygiene, to include hand-washing, use of antiseptic gels and surgical scrubbing
3. Prepare and wear operating theatre clothing, to include: scrubs and footwear, caps and masks, sterile gowns and sterile gloves

OUTCOME 3

UNDERSTAND THE USE OF OPERATING THEATRE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

1. Distinguish between essential, non-essential and inappropriate furnishings and equipment within the theatre environment.
2. Explain the safe use and care for key operating theatre equipment, to include lighting, adjustable table and positioning aids, diathermy, suction and tourniquets
3. Explain the safe use of patient transport systems, to include hoists

OUTCOME 4

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF INSTRUMENT CARE AND STERILISATION

1. Demonstrate how to clean instruments effectively, to include hand cleaning and ultrasonic cleaning
2. Demonstrate how to pack items for sterilisation, to include single instruments, instrument sets and drapes and gowns

OUTCOME 5

BE ABLE TO ASSIST THE OPERATING SURGEON AS A CIRCULATING NURSE

1. Prepare an animal in the operating theatre, to include positioning and final skin preparation
2. Demonstrate how to assist a surgeon to don sterile clothing and gloves
3. Open and pass sterile materials correctly, to include handing to a scrubbed operator and onto a sterile field

OUTCOME 6

UNDERSTAND THE MANAGEMENT OF INSTRUMENTS AND MATERIALS DURING A SURGICAL PROCEDURE

1. Explain the use of instrument trolleys and Mayo tables, to include layout of instruments
2. Demonstrate safe techniques for handling and passing instruments, to include passing bladed items, mounted needles, demounting needles
3. Explain how to keep track of instruments and swabs, to include timing and recording of instrument and swab counts
4. Describe the safe disposal of hazardous materials, to include sharps, swabs, suction bottle contents and tissue

OUTCOME 7

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF PATIENT CARE DURING SURGERY

1. Explain the routine care requirements of an anaesthetised animal, to include maintaining temperature, prevention of pressure necrosis, avoidance of joint strain and limb swelling and prevention of corneal ulcers

AN7

OUTCOME 1

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF ANAESTHESIA

1. Outline different methods of anaesthesia
2. Summarise the principles of balanced anaesthesia
3. Outline stages and planes of anaesthesia



OUTCOME 2

OUTLINE THE FUNCTION OF ANAESTHETIC EQUIPMENT

1. Outline the function and maintenance of key parts of an anaesthetic machine
2. Identify and describe the use of anaesthetic breathing systems
3. Outline types of endotracheal tube and describe their use and maintenance
4. Describe the safety checks to be made of anaesthetic equipment
5. Outline the use of monitoring equipment

OUTCOME 3

DESCRIBE ANAESTHETIC PREPARATION AND INDUCTION

1. Describe the preparation of an animal for general anaesthesia
2. Outline the materials and equipment needed for induction of anaesthesia
3. Describe the support of the anaesthetist during anaesthetic induction
4. Describe the principles of effective intubation

OUTCOME 4

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF MONITORING AN ANAESTHETISED ANIMAL

1. Describe the observations to be made of an anaesthetised animal and how these should be recorded
2. Describe the observations to be made of equipment during an anaesthetic
3. Describe the positioning and monitoring of a patient during anaesthetic recovery
4. Describe observations to be reported to the veterinary surgeon during anaesthetic and recovery monitoring

OUTCOME 5

KNOW HOW TO RECOGNISE AND RESPOND TO ANAESTHETIC EMERGENCIES

1. Describe how to recognise and assist in the case of respiratory and/or cardiac arrest
2. Describe how to recognise and manage equipment failure

AN8

OUTCOME 1

BE ABLE TO PREPARE, USE AND MAINTAIN ANAESTHETIC EQUIPMENT

1. Demonstrate the set-up and checks required of anaesthetic equipment
2. Clean and care for anaesthetic equipment

OUTCOME 2

BE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH ANAESTHETIC PREPARATION AND INDUCTION

1. Prepare materials and equipment needed for induction of anaesthesia
2. Support the anaesthetist during anaesthetic induction
3. Transfer an anaesthetised animal safely into the operating theatre

OUTCOME 3

BE ABLE TO MONITOR AN ANIMAL DURING ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY

1. Observe equipment during an anaesthetic
2. Position and monitor a patient during anaesthetic recovery

AN9

OUTCOME 1

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF PREPARING A PATIENT FOR SURGERY

1. Describe the information to be obtained from the animal's owner
2. Summarise the legal requirements for consent to a surgical procedure
3. Describe the principles of withholding food and fluids prior to anaesthesia
4. Describe requirements for clipping and skin preparation



OUTCOME 2

DESCRIBE IMMEDIATE POST-OPERATIVE CARE PLANS

1. Describe immediate requirements for handover from the operating theatre

OUTCOME 3

DESCRIBE RECOVERY PLAN REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONVALESCENT PATIENT

1. Describe recovery care plan requirements
2. Describe the principles of surgical wound care plans

OUTCOME 4

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF HOW TO FACILITATE HOME CONVALESCENCE

1. Describe the principle factors to consider for patient discharge
2. Describe the core requirements for a home care plan

AN10

OUTCOME 1

BE ABLE TO PREPARE A PATIENT FOR SURGERY

1. Admit animals for surgery
2. Prepare animals for surgical procedures

OUTCOME 2

CONTRIBUTE TO IMMEDIATE POST-OPERATIVE CARE

1. Assess and carry out appropriate care following surgery
2. Prepare a suitable nursing environment for a post-operative patient
3. Observe and record post-operative observations
4. Maintain and record fluid intake

OUTCOME 3

CONTRIBUTE TO HOME CONVALESCENCE CARE PLAN

1. Demonstrate effective communication with patients' owners

AN11

OUTCOME 1

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF WOUND HEALING AND CARE

1. Describe factors that may impede healing
2. Outline the wound healing process

OUTCOME 2

SUMMARISE THE PRINCIPLES OF SMALL ANIMAL CARE PLANS

1. Outline the principles of small animal care plans
2. Principles of physiotherapy techniques

OUTCOME 3

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF NURSING SMALL ANIMALS IN ISOLATION

1. Outline reasons why animals might require nursing in isolation
2. Outline the principle requirements of isolation accommodation
3. Describe procedure protocols for nursing animals in isolation
4. Outline the specific needs of isolated patients

OUTCOME 4

DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF THE ANIMAL NURSE IN VETERINARY EUTHANASIA

1. Describe the euthanasia process
2. Describe how sensitive euthanasia can be accomplished



AN12

OUTCOME 1

BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE NURSING ENVIRONMENT

1. Provide an appropriate nursing environment

OUTCOME 2

BE ABLE TO PERFORM SMALL ANIMAL NURSING CARE PLANS

1. Apply and review care plans for small animals
2. Demonstrate physiotherapy techniques

OUTCOME 3

BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NURSING CARE TO PATIENTS REQUIRING ISOLATION

1. Prepare isolation accommodation for an admission.
2. Demonstrate appropriate care whilst dealing with small animals in isolation
3. Clean isolation accommodation

AN13

OUTCOME 1

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF FIRST AID

1. Define the scope of first aid
2. Describe the principles of first aid management and treatment
3. Outline what information should be given to a veterinary surgeon regarding a treated first aid casualty

OUTCOME 2

OUTLINE HOW TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY VETERINARY CARE

1. Outline how to prepare for the admission of an emergency case
2. Describe the contents and maintenance of an emergency 'crash box' or trolley

OUTCOME 3

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPLES OF INTRAVENOUS CATHETERISATION

1. Describe the principles of intravenous catheterisation
2. Describe the care of an intravenous catheter

OUTCOME 4

OUTLINE THE CARE REQUIREMENTS OF A CRITICALLY ILL OR INJURED ANIMAL

1. Outline preparing accommodation for a critically ill patient
2. Outline the principles of record-keeping and reporting for critically ill animals

OUTCOME 5

DEMONSTRATE FIRST AID CARE AND TREATMENT TECHNIQUES

1. Demonstrate the principles of first aid treatment
2. Demonstrate care needs of a critically ill animal

VN1

OUTCOME 1

UNDERSTAND THE ROLES OF MEMBERS OF THE VETERINARY TEAM

1. Compare and contrast the roles of a veterinary surgeon and a veterinary nurse
2. Explain the role and functions of lay staff within a veterinary practice
3. Outline the significance of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966



OUTCOME 2

UNDERSTAND THE AIMS OF EFFECTIVE HEALTH AND SAFETY WITHIN A VETERINARY PRACTICE

1. Explain the aims of effective health and safety practice
2. Explain the principal risks in a veterinary practice, mentioning the environment, working hours, chemical and biological hazards
3. Demonstrate how to move and handle animals and equipment safely, identifying risk factors and using ergonomic principles
4. Explain the principles of handling and disposal of hazardous substances, to include sharps, biological and chemical materials

OUTCOME 3

UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE AND MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT IN A VETERINARY PRACTICE

1. Describe the use of veterinary practice equipment, to include clinical furniture, powered and manual instrumentation, diagnostic imaging, laboratory and anaesthetic equipment.
2. Explain protocols for routine checking and maintenance of equipment by both internal practice staff and external agencies, to include frequency.
3. Explain how to identify equipment faults, to include action that should be taken in the event of malfunction.

OUTCOME 4

UNDERSTAND HOW TO MAINTAIN STOCKS OF VETERINARY CONSUMABLES AND PHARMACEUTICALS

1. Summarise the principles of stock control, mentioning record-keeping, storage conditions, stock rotation
2. Identify the range of materials needed to support a veterinary practice, to include consumables, sterile supplies, pharmaceuticals, food
3. Explain how to dispose of surplus and outdated materials, mentioning relevant legal requirements

OUTCOME 5

KNOW THE PRINCIPLES OF RECORD-KEEPING

1. Explain the principles of veterinary record-keeping, mentioning client and patient records, to include confidentiality, data protection, RCVS Guides to Professional Conduct

VN2

OUTCOME 1

UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS OF COMMUNICATION

1. Identify modes of communication encountered in veterinary practice
2. Explore factors that may affect communication, to include culture, age, grief, use of language and sensory impairment
3. Differentiate between communication styles, to include recognition of own style of communication
4. Recognise how emotions affect communication, to include manifestations of grief and loss
5. Explain the dynamics of effective face-to-face interaction, mentioning social and environmental factors, body language and feedback mechanisms
6. Explain the specific demands and adaptations required in telephone communication, with a focus on excellence in customer service and client care



OUTCOME 2

BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH CLIENTS AND COLLEAGUES

1. Take a patient history to include actively eliciting relevant information, correct interpretation of given facts, concise transmission of relevant information to a veterinary colleague
2. Produce written clinical records, to include care plans, observations and client instructions, that are clear, comprehensive, comprehensible and legible

OUTCOME 3

UNDERSTAND FACTORS AFFECTING WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CLIENTS AND WITHIN THE VETERINARY TEAM

1. Explain factors that influence the human/animal relationship, to include culture and religion, socio-economic status
2. Describe influences on relationships between members of an inter-professional team, to include perceptions, roles, expertise and responsibilities

OUTCOME 4

UNDERSTAND PRINCIPLES OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

1. Summarise the value of clients to a veterinary practice
2. Explain important customer service factors for veterinary clients to include information, courtesy, responsiveness, presentation of the practice
3. Summarise the principles of handling a complaint

OUTCOME 5

BE ABLE TO OPERATE A VETERINARY RECEPTION DESK

1. Greet and address clients appropriately, to include telephone and face-to-face communication
2. Make appropriate appointments for clients, to include first appointments, emergencies and follow-ups
3. Use veterinary record-keeping systems
4. Take payments for treatment or retail services, to include credit cards, cheques, insurance claims
5. Advise clients on the process of seeking second opinions or referrals

VN3

OUTCOME 1

KNOW ANATOMICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY IN RELATION TO VETERINARY NURSING PRACTICE

1. Explain the use of directional terms, prefixes and suffixes, modes of body section and joint movement and the anatomical boundaries of body cavities.

OUTCOME 2

KNOW ANATOMICAL LANDMARKS IN LIVING ANIMALS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO VETERINARY NURSING PRACTICE

1. Demonstrate the position of anatomical landmarks in intact animals, including dogs, cats, exotic species and horses to address musculoskeletal features, points of venous and arterial access and external genitalia.



OUTCOME 3

UNDERSTAND THE NORMAL FORM AND FUNCTION OF BODY SYSTEMS IN A RANGE OF MAMMALIAN SPECIES

1. Explain basic cell structure, physiology and division
2. Describe the structure of the skin, hair and associated glands
3. Explain the structure and function of the musculoskeletal system
4. Compare and contrast mammalian digestive tracts and modes of digestion
5. Describe the functions of the autonomic and motor nervous systems and the special senses
6. Explain the function of the endocrine system in relation to the control of body systems
7. Describe the structure and function of the circulatory system
8. Describe the structure of the respiratory system and explain the process of respiration
9. Describe the urinary tract and explain the production of urine
10. Explain the function of the kidney in maintaining blood pressure and homeostasis
11. Explain reproductive physiology in the male and female; describe comparative reproductive tracts

OUTCOME 4

KNOW THE KEY ANATOMICAL FEATURES AND BODY FUNCTIONS OF BIRDS AND REPTILES

1. Describe the key anatomical structures of birds and reptiles
2. Explain the key ways in which the physiology of birds and reptiles differs from that of mammals

OUTCOME 5

BE ABLE TO RELATE NORMAL FORM AND FUNCTION TO THE EFFECTS OF DISORDER IN DISEASE PROCESSES AND THE CONSEQUENT NURSING REQUIREMENTS OF SICK ANIMALS

1. Explain how compensatory mechanisms may give rise to symptoms of disease

VN4

OUTCOME 1

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL WELFARE

1. Summarise the legislation and codes of practice in place to protect animal interests, mentioning the Animal Welfare Act, DEFRA, animal welfare codes, Companion Animal Welfare Council

OUTCOME 2

UNDERSTAND THE ESSENTIAL FACTORS FOR MAINTAINING ANIMAL HEALTH FOR A RANGE OF SPECIES

1. Explain the importance of key factors in maintaining animal health to include housing, feeding, exercise, grooming and foot care, dental hygiene, vaccination and parasite control in relation to dogs, cats, exotic species and horses
2. Distinguish normal and abnormal presentations, mentioning behaviour, appearance, mobility, excretions
3. Explain the principles of introducing new stock to an existing animal group

OUTCOME 3

KNOW THE NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF ANIMALS

1. Explain the roles of essential nutrients, minerals and vitamins in dogs, cats, exotic species and horses
2. Describe the differing nutritional requirements of very young, very old, breeding and performance animals
3. Explain the effects of illness and injury on nutritional requirements



OUTCOME 4

UNDERSTAND THE REPRODUCTION AND BREEDING OF ANIMALS

1. Explain key principles of genetic inheritance and define terms, including phenotype, genotype, allele
2. Describe the breeding cycles of a range of species to include dogs, cats, exotic species and horses, mentioning natural mating, artificial insemination and pseudocyesis
3. Explain the essentials of intra-partum care, to include preparations, normal labour and parturition, identification of complications and post-partum care
4. Explain the nursing and management of neonates, to include recognition of abnormalities and complications

OUTCOME 5

KNOW METHODS OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

1. Explain methods of identifying a range of species, including dogs, cats, exotic species and horses to include breed, markings, colours and distinguishing features, owner registration (tattooing, microchips, tags, freeze-marking), passports, blood typing and DNA testing
2. Describe the requirements for passports and record-keeping in relation to animal movements and medicine use

OUTCOME 6

BE ABLE TO HANDLE AND RESTRAIN ANIMALS SAFELY

1. Demonstrate correct techniques for catching, holding and restraining cats, dogs and exotic species, to include rabbits, birds, rodents and reptiles
2. Demonstrate correct techniques for approaching, restraining and leading a horse, to include application of head collar and examination of a hoof
3. Demonstrate the correct use of personal protective equipment when handling animals
4. Explain how to recognise and deal with aggressive behaviour
5. Explain how to transport a range of species safely, to include dogs, cats, exotic species and horses

VN5

OUTCOME 1

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF INFECTION IN ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH

1. Identify the major groups of disease-producing infectious agents in relation to animal health, to include viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, parasites, prions
2. Explain the risks of zoonoses, including animal to human transmission and vice versa
3. Explain the implications of antibiotic resistance for veterinary practice, to include MRSA

OUTCOME 2

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN VETERINARY PRACTICE

1. Describe how micro-organisms are transmitted, to include direct and indirect spread; inhalation, inoculation and ingestion; reservoirs, fomites and carriers



OUTCOME 3

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF DISINFECTION AND STERILISATION

1. Distinguish between the processes of disinfection and sterilisation, to include antisepsis and asepsis
2. Explain the use of clinical antiseptics and disinfectants to include susceptibility of different classes of organisms and how this affects choice, safe use
3. Explain the process of sterilisation, to include steam, gas, cold chemicals and gamma radiation
4. Describe the operation of an autoclave, to include safety, loading, monitoring of effective sterilisation
5. Explain how to pack, label and store autoclaved items

OUTCOME 4

UNDERSTAND HOW TO MAINTAIN A CLEAN CLINICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Apply principles of effective clinical cleaning, to include consulting rooms, kennel accommodation, stabling, laboratory and operating theatres
2. Apply safe principles of waste handling and disposal in relation to contaminated materials, to include blood, urine, faeces, tissue and cadavers

OUTCOME 5

UNDERSTAND HOW TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL HYGIENE IN RELATION TO CROSS-INFECTION

1. Explain the importance of personal hygiene and dress in relation to infection control, mentioning hair, nails, jewellery, badges, sleeves, ties
2. Demonstrate effective hand hygiene, to include antiseptic washes and alcohol gels
3. Demonstrate appropriate use of disposable protective clothing, to include gloves and aprons

OUTCOME 6

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF INFECTION MONITORING

1. Explain the importance of infection monitoring in clinical audit
2. Analyse the role of the veterinary nurse in maintaining infection control, to include audit, staff training and mentorship, providing a role model