

# Animal Care & Welfare Assistant Level 2

**Apprenticeship Standard**

[wmc.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://wmc.ac.uk/apprenticeships)

# Overview



Animal Care and Welfare Assistants look after the routine day to day care of domestic and/or wild animals. The work is carried out individually or as part of a team in places such as kennels and catteries, laboratories, animal welfare centres, farm parks, rehabilitation centres, retail outlets and in the transportation of animals.

Animal Care and Welfare Assistants must have a strong work ethic and be prepared to work irregular hours in all weather conditions. They must maintain safe working practices and taking responsibility for themselves, animals and others.

Typical job roles include: kennel/cattery assistant, animal welfare assistant, animal day care assistant, wildlife rehabilitation assistant, zoo keeper assistant, pet retail assistant, animal handler, veterinary care assistant.

## **Duration:**

12 months + 3 months for the End Point Assessment (EPA).

## **Entry Guidelines:**

English & maths at GCSE grade A\*-E/2-9 or Functional Skills level 1

N.B. All apprenticeship standards require apprentices to provide evidence of their English and maths grades before they can progress through the Gateway to their End Point Assessment and achieve the apprenticeship qualification. Apprentices without level 2 qualifications in English and maths must take the tests for level 2 prior to taking their end point assessment.





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## Course Overview

Pre-programme	On Programme Learning covering Skills, Knowledge & Behaviours	Gateway	Independent End Point Assessment
Initial assessment English & Maths	Animal Care & Welfare Assistant Level 2 (Day release, Twelve Quays Campus)	English level 1 Maths level 1 English & maths level 2 tests	Practical Assessment
Skills Scan	Portfolio of evidence to be built during on programme learning	E-portfolio of evidence	Professional Discussion
Induction with Trainer Assessor	On Programme Assessments & Reviews: 6-8 weekly sessions with Trainer Assessor & 8-10 week Progress Reviews with apprentice and employer		

# Course Details

This apprenticeship programme is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be an effective Animal Care and Welfare Assistant.

## **The Knowledge element of the course will include:**

- UK and EU Animal related legislation, guidelines, Codes of Practice and ethics
- signs that indicate potential problems with animals' health and welfare and the actions that should be taken
- the types of basic medication, routes of administering medication, safe handling and disposal of medication
- animal first aid, urgent, ongoing and preventive care
- accommodation and environment requirements that are suitable and safe for animals
- the use of different cleaning materials and equipment
- feeding, watering and basic nutrition and characteristics of foodstuffs
- how to safely approach/handle/restrain/move animals
- the behaviours of the animal, applicable to the species and how it impacts its care and welfare such as stress/distress/pain/fear/frustration
- the different methods required to meet the animals' need for enrichment/exercise
- different skin and coat care requirements of animals
- basic anatomy and physiology
- basic reproduction and obstetrics and reproductive behaviour, including neutering
- basic awareness of capture techniques
- hygiene, bio security procedures and infection controls when working with animals.

## **The Occupational Skills element of the course will include:**

- work effectively in a safe and healthy working environment
- identify and report potential hazards and breaches of security within animal accommodation/enclosures
- clean and maintain animal accommodation, enclosures, environment and equipment
- maintain hygiene, bio security procedures and infection controls when working with animals including quarantine and isolation
- dispose of waste in a safe and appropriate manner in line with legislative and workplace requirements
- store, use and administer medication in line with legislative and veterinary instructions as appropriate
- monitor, record and report the health and welfare of animals
- observe and be aware of the behaviour of animals and take appropriate actions
- approach, handle, restrain, move and recapture animals
- exercise, socialise animals and provide appropriate enrichment relevant to their specific needs
- provide appropriate care, for example coat, skin, scales, plumage and feet to ensure good health and appearance
- provide food and water to animals and monitor the intake
- store and care for foodstuffs
- maintain, update and reference correct records in accordance with current legislation
- respond to animal first aid, urgent, ongoing and preventive care requirements as appropriate.

**Optional units include:**

- Animal Interaction and Handling
- Rehoming
- Movement and Transportation
- Operational/Reception Duties
- Breeding
- Working Dog Handler
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Veterinary Care Support



# Skills & Behaviours

The **Skills & Behaviours** element of the apprenticeship is to be completed in the apprentice's workplace under the guidance of the employer. The Trainer/Assessor will make periodic visits to the apprentice in the workplace to ensure that the apprentice is developing the skills and behaviours required in accordance with the Apprenticeship Standard, including:

- Safe working
- Work ethic
- Responsibility
- Team work
- Communication
- Professionalism

The apprentice will use the e-portfolio system called OneFile to build a portfolio of work throughout the development stage, which is a key component of End Point Assessment and demonstrates their occupational competency.



# Gateway

Once the apprentice has completed all the required elements of the apprenticeship and their manager and Trainer Assessor agree that they are ready for the end point assessment, they will progress through the Gateway to undertake their End Point Assessment.

A completed portfolio of evidence is a compulsory End Point Assessment (EPA) gateway requirement that supports the Interview component.

The apprentice's employer must sign-off the portfolio of evidence, that has been completed by the apprentice during their programme, to confirm the apprentice has demonstrated the knowledge, skills and behaviours assigned to this apprenticeship standard.



# End Point Assessment

The End Point Assessment must only start once the employer is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard, that means they have achieved occupational competence.

**End Point Assessment (EPA) normally takes 3 months to complete and consists of:**

1. Practical Assessment
2. Professional Discussion

## Assessment Method 1: Practical Assessment

The practical assessment will provide the opportunity for the apprentice to demonstrate core Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours whilst completing two tasks:

- Cleaning, preparing and maintaining animal accommodation, enclosures, environment and equipment.
- Selecting food and water – specific to the species, preparing it (eg chopping, blending, sterilising) before presenting it to the animals.

## Assessment Method 2: Professional Discussion

The professional discussion will last up to 60 minutes and will be a structured discussion between the apprentice and the independent assessor. It will cover the apprentice's achievements, the standard of their work and their approach. The portfolio of evidence will be used to inform questioning during the professional discussion, but it will not be assessed or graded.

# Grading & Progression



## Apprenticeship grading

The available grades for this apprenticeship programme are **Distinction, Pass or Fail**.

## Where can apprentices progress to?

The apprentice may choose to progress on to a higher level apprenticeship standard.





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