

PIL207A Care for animals in a permaculture system

This competency standard covers caring for the health and welfare of animals in a permaculture system through providing the optimal environment for them, administering treatments as and when necessary, and maintaining records about work undertaken.

This standard is applicable to both farm animals and companion animals.

Caring for the health and welfare of animals requires knowledge of animals common to permaculture systems in a given region or system, symptoms of ill-health in animals, animal behaviour and handling, principles of animal health, welfare and care.

Element		Performance Criteria	
1	Monitor and assess animal health and welfare	1.1	Regular checks are taken to assess animal health and welfare
		1.2	Symptoms of ill health and common diseases or parasite infestations are recognised and reported
		1.3	Dead animals are removed and disposed of according to enterprise procedures
2	Provide an optimal environment for animals	2.1	An optimal environment is correctly and safely provided for animals according to organisation practice, the code of welfare and relevant regulations
		2.3	Equipment and housing is installed in accordance with established organisation quality assurance and animal welfare guidelines
		2.4	Welfare of animals is monitored and abnormalities are reported promptly
3	Establish and maintain hygiene of animal housing	3.1	Occupational health and safety procedures, practices, policies and precautions are observed and followed, including the use of personal protective equipment
		3.2	Cleanliness and hygiene are maintained by selecting and using appropriate methods

		3.3	Quarantine procedures are maintained as instructed to minimise the spread of disease
		3.4	Thorough personal hygiene practices are maintained in all activities associated with handling animals, including reducing risks from diseases transmissible to humans
		3.5	Equipment and fittings are dismantled, cleaned and replaced correctly
		3.6	Pest and vermin control measures are taken when necessary
		3.7	All waste and debris is disposed of, and run-off is dealt with, according to public health hygiene standards
4	Administer treatments to animals	4.1	Routine prevention procedures for disease or parasite infestation are safely carried out
		4.2	Medication is prepared for administering according to manufacturers instructions
		4.5	Treatments are carried out under instruction as required
		4.6	Records are prepared on treatments that have been administered
5	Remove animals	5.1	Culling and removal is undertaken according to property and animal welfare guidelines
		5.2	Dead animals are removed and disposed of according to enterprise procedures and health and hygiene requirements
		5.3	Unhealthy animals are recognised and dealt with according to property policy
6	Keep and maintain records	6.1	Disease incidence, animal losses, and treatments are recorded
		6.2	Disease information is reported to the supervisor so that prevention strategies can be planned and implemented
		6.3	All records made, kept and maintained are clear, accurate, and follow the guidelines laid down by the supervisor

Range of Variables

The Range of Variables explains the contexts within which the performance and knowledge requirements of this standard may be assessed. The scope of variables chosen in training and assessment requirements may depend on the work situations available.

What might be included under regular checks ?	This could include daily inspections of animals
What can be included under welfare ?	Welfare may include handling of animals, water suitable for their needs, food appropriate for the physiological requirements of animals, vaccination, and prevailing weather conditions.
What does optimal environment involve?	It involves housing, range area, group sizes, stocking rates, appropriate cohabitation of species, feed, water, and appropriate weather.
What personal protective clothing and equipment may be relevant to this standard?	This may include boots, overalls, gloves, and sun protection (sun hat, sunscreen).

Evidence Guide

What evidence is required to demonstrate competence for this standard as a whole?

Competence in caring for the health and welfare of animals in a permaculture system requires evidence that animals are maintained at optimum health and that problems are minimised through regular observation and treatment.

The skills and knowledge required to care for the health and welfare of animals in a permaculture system must be transferable to a different systems and types of animals.

What specific knowledge is needed to achieve the performance criteria?	<p>The knowledge requirements for this competency standard are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permaculture principles and ethics • Animals common to permaculture systems in a given region or system • Role or niche of animal/s in system and interrelationship with other animals, plants or systems. • Principles of animal health, welfare and care • Symptoms of ill-health in animals • The range of diseases affecting animals including zoonotic diseases and mode of transmission • Legislation and regulations relating to waste and environment management, and animal health and welfare
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- Signs of animal fear/aggression and stress
- Handling of animals
- Euthanasia of animals
- Safe handling of sick and dead animals
- Relevant occupational health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice.

What specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?

Skills required include the ability to:

- Monitor and assess animal health and welfare
- Provide an optimal environment for animals
- Establish and maintain hygiene of animal housing
- Administer treatments to animals
- Cull and remove animals

What processes should be applied to this competency standard?

There are a number of processes that are learnt throughout work and life which are required in all jobs. They are fundamental processes and generally transferable to other work functions. Some of these are covered by the **key competencies**, although others may be added. The questions below highlight how these processes are applied in this competency standard. Following each question a number in brackets indicates the level to which the key competency needs to be demonstrated where 0 = not required, 1 = perform the process, 2 = perform and administer the process and 3 = perform, administer and design the process.

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| 1. How can communication of ideas and information (1) be applied? | In interpreting and clarifying the work that is to be done and the specific requirements that there are for a particular situation. |
| 2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (2) ? | In working with information on feeding, watering, treatment records, animal losses, stocking rates, weather conditions and other details critical to the health and welfare of the animals. |
| 3. How are activities planned and organised (1) ? | In preparing to administer treatments according to the schedules provided. |
| 4. How can team work (1) be applied? | When working alongside others to ensure that required team outcomes are achieved. |
| 5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and techniques (2) be applied? | In calculating ratios, percentages, and amounts required when feeding and watering animals. |

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| 6. How can problem solving skills (2) be applied? | In providing an optimal environment and to ensure that stocking rates are adjusted appropriately. |
| 7. How can the use of technology (1) be applied? | N/a |
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Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?

This competency standard can be assessed on its own or in combination with other competencies relevant to the job function.

For information about assessing this competency standard for consistent performance and where and how it may be assessed, refer to the **Permaculture International Ltd Course Documentation**.
