

This course is for students who have an interest in caring for animals. The course focuses upon the major principles and practices of animal care: maintaining animal health and welfare, practical animal feeding, maintaining animal accommodation and understanding animal biology. From managing a pet shop or grooming dogs to caring for exotic animals: the learner will be able to start a career in the animal care industry. The Level 2 award is equivalent to 1 GCSE grades 9-5 and the Level 1 award is equivalent to 1 GCSE grades 4-1.

What skills are needed for this course?

- An interest in animals and awareness of their long-term care needs
- Enthusiasm
- The motivation and organisation to work independently and with a team

The course aims to:

- Develop the learner's ability to maintain the health and welfare of a range of animals. This includes identifying any signs of ill health or future problems and how to follow these through and fully support and monitor the animals' recovery
- Develop the learners' ability to demonstrate appropriate recognition, preparation and selection of feeding equipment and foodstuffs needed to keep an animal at its' optimal nutritional state. The learner will also be aware of different life stages and how to feed animals during these stages
- Develop the learners' understanding of how animal accommodation should be designed and constructed so that it meets the welfare needs of the animal. The learner will develop the skills required to prepare, clean and maintain animal housing

Coursework:

- Three internally assessed units - a range of practical and written assignments which demonstrates the learning for each of the four units

Examination:

- One externally assessed unit - 1 hour exam

Progression Pathways to further and higher education:

- Level 3 Animal Management or other land based courses

Career Opportunities:

- Assistant animal trainer e.g. an audio visual assistant
- Uniformed forces dog trainer
- Animal manager of zoo or wildlife establishment
- Animal welfare inspector