



The New

Level 2 Animal Care Apprenticeship Standard

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS

Do you know your frameworks from your standards? With so many changes it's easy to be confused by what apprenticeships are available! Here is a brief guide to help you on your way to becoming apprenticeship savvy.

Apprenticeship frameworks are being replaced by apprenticeship standards...

WHY?

In 2012 a review was commissioned and the outcome was that many employers felt existing apprenticeships (frameworks) were not fit for industry needs.

As a result, employer-led groups, called Trailblazers, were formed to decide what the new apprenticeships (standards) should contain, how they will be assessed and how much they will cost.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Animal Care Trailblazer group have created a new apprenticeship standard for those working in the animal care sector which the Institute for Apprenticeships released in August 2018.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In summary:

- » The government funding for apprenticeships has changed
- » The apprentice has specific knowledge, skills and behaviours that they need to be able to demonstrate to complete the apprenticeship
- » An 'End Point Assessment' needs to be undertaken for the apprenticeship to be achieved

WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THE NEW APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS?

Anyone aged 16 or over, providing they meet the following criteria:

- » Live in England and spend at least 50% of their working time in England
- » Have lived within the EU for at least the last three years
- » Not already achieved a qualification similar to the apprenticeship they will be undertaking at the same level or above
- » Not already receiving government funding for an alternative qualification

APPRENTICESHIP QUICK FACTS



An apprentice must be paid at least the minimum starting wage for an apprentice (£3.70 per hour as of April 2018)



The employer pays for the apprenticeship and cannot ask for the apprentice to contribute



20% of an apprentice's paid hours must be spent on off-the-job training



The Level 2 Animal Care and Welfare Assistant Standard is expected to take 18 months to complete.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Along with the new Level 2 Animal Care and Welfare Assistant Apprenticeship Standard, comes some changes in funding.

The Institute for Apprenticeships have set fees at £5,000 but the amount you pay depends on the size of your organisation.

NON-LEVY EMPLOYER



AN EMPLOYER WITH AN ANNUAL PAYROLL BILL OF LESS THAN £3 MILLION



A 10% contribution is required, so the total cost payable is £500.

LEVY PAYING EMPLOYER



AN EMPLOYER WITH AN ANNUAL PAYROLL BILL OF MORE THAN £3 MILLION



The full £5,000 is payable from levy funds via the Digital Account Service (DAS).

Employers training an apprentice under 19 years of age will receive a £1,000 incentive (payable in two instalments) from the government towards the costs of training. If you also have less than 50 contracted employees, the apprenticeship fees for those aged 16-18 years of age will be fully funded!

HOW IS THE APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD STUDIED?

The College of Animal Welfare offers the Level 2 Animal Welfare and Care Assistant Apprenticeship on a work-based learning basis normally within a 90 minute radius of Huntingdon, Leeds or Potters Bar.

WHAT IS WORK-BASED LEARNING?

Simply put, work-based learning means studying for your apprenticeship in your workplace without having to attend college for tuition. You have access to a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), our extensive eLibrary and will be visited in your place of work by a Work-based Learning Assessor with support via telephone and email contact between visits.



WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY WITH US YOU WILL BE JOINING A COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE WHO ALL SHARE A PASSION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

CORE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND BEHAVIOURS

You will study core knowledge, skills and behaviours and then choose a specific pathway depending on your job role and interests.



Knowledge (Core)

- UK and EU Animal related legislation
- Current legislation, policies, procedures, guidelines, Codes of Practice and ethics relevant to the workplace and the health and welfare of animals
- The species/breeds specific to your role and common characteristics
- 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
- How the animal you are working with learns and the basic principles of re-enforcement techniques
- How an animal's natural behaviour impacts its diet and feeding patterns
- The different methods required to meet the animals' need for enrichment/exercise opportunities, appropriate to species and individual animal
- Different skin and coat care requirements of animals in their care
- Basic anatomy and physiology
- Basic reproduction and obstetrics and reproductive behaviour, including neutering
- Data Protection and records in line with legislation, codes of practice and workplace requirements
- The importance of the human and animal bond
- The changing needs of animals' dependent on their life stage
- Basic awareness of capture techniques
- Hygiene, bio security procedures and infection controls when working with animals including quarantine, zoonoses, anthroponosis, isolation protocols



Skills (Core)

- Comply with UK and EU Animal related legislation
- Work effectively in a safe and healthy working environment following current / relevant health and safety legislation and work place policies
- Identify and report potential hazards and breaches of security within animal accommodation/enclosures
- Clean and maintain animal accommodation/enclosures/ environment and equipment and provide appropriate resources including species specific enrichment (e.g. hiding, perches and areas to dig)
- 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 in line with animal welfare legislation and workplace policies
- Observe and be aware of the behaviour of animals and take appropriate actions
- Approach/handle/restrain/move/recapture animals as part of routine husbandry appropriate for the species and individual
- 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
- Identify and describe animals using appropriate methods to the species involved (e.g. scanning for microchips)
- Maintain, update and reference correct records in accordance with current legislation
- Deliver customer experience (internal and external), where applicable, in line with workplace policies and procedures
- Respond to animal first aid, urgent, ongoing and preventive care requirements as appropriate

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Behaviours

You will look at safe working, work ethic, team work, responsibility, communication and professionalism.

OPTIONAL PATHWAY UNITS

Whilst it is important that those undertaking the Level 2 Apprenticeship develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the core units, the differences in apprentices' job roles can be vast. Therefore, in order to ensure your learning meets the needs of your particular job you will then choose from one of the following pathways.

ANIMAL INTERACTION AND HANDLING

Job roles include: Animal Welfare Assistants, Dog Day Care Assistants and Farm Park Assistants

Additional skills and knowledge that you will learn will be based around interaction/handling activities; making sure the animal's physical and emotional welfare are promoted at all times. You will look at handling methods, use of equipment, socialisation, positive reinforcement techniques, assessing animal behaviour and monitoring/reporting.

REHOMING

Job roles include: Animal Welfare Assistants, Zoo Keep Assistants, Rehoming Assistants

Additional skills and knowledge that you will learn will focus on the whole process of rehoming animals. You will look at intake/admissions, assessment of animals, the matching process, advising clients on the suitability of animals according to their circumstances and policies/procedures, signpost clients to further sources of information and guidance following the rehoming of an animal.

MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Job roles include: Animal Collection Officers, Animal Ambulance Drivers and Wildlife Rehabilitation Assistants

Additional skills and knowledge will focus on providing appropriate transportation for animals; taking into consideration the welfare of the animal at all times. You will look at preparing animals to be moved or transported, appropriate equipment, safety and security, monitoring the physical and emotional health and welfare of the animal, dealing with sick or injured animals, identifying routes and contingency plans and legal requirements.

BREEDING

Job roles include: Animal Welfare Assistants working in breeding centres

Additional skills and knowledge will focus on the whole breeding process including preparing animals and the environment for mating, stages of the gestation period, monitoring during parturition and recognising signs of difficulty, care of the animal pre and post parturition, care of neonates, care of the young, social and environmental factors and their impact on development and socialisation.

WORKING DOG HANDLER

Job roles include: Animal Handlers, Security Dog Handlers and Service Dog Handlers

Additional skills and knowledge that you will learn will be based around ensuring the dog team operate within the legal and ethical framework associated with their employment. You will look at equipment, operational performance, dog behaviour/characteristics and indications, transporting working dogs, reading dogs' stress and emotional responses and maintaining trained behaviours.

OPERATIONAL/RECEPTION DUTIES

Job roles include: Pet Retail Shop Assistants, Kennel/Cattery Assistants

Additional skills and knowledge that you will focus on include presenting a safe and welcoming environment for clients and animals, providing information and guidance, methods of technology for communication, receiving and storing goods, stock rotation and displays, taking payments, processing registrations and bookings, record keeping and handling complaints in line with organisational policies.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Job roles include: Wildlife Rehabilitation Assistants, Zoo Keeper Assistants and Farm Park Assistants.

Additional skills and knowledge that you will focus on include capturing and handling healthy and casualty wild animals, identifying wild animals that are suitable for rehabilitation and release, planning and undertaking rehabilitation plans, transportation, release and monitoring as appropriate, hand rearing, species identification and their behavioural and ecological needs and legal/ethical considerations.

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

Initial process

- » Apply via The College of Animal Welfare's online application system
- » A work-based Learning Assessor will visit you in your place of work to ensure the programme is the right one for you

On-Programme Assessment:

- » Completion of a portfolio
- » Completion of Level 1 Functional Skills in English and Maths (unless exempt)
- » Level 2 Functional Skills tests in English and Maths (unless exempt)

Gateway to End Point Assessment

- » Once you have completed your portfolio, Level 1 Functional Skills Maths and English, have undertaken Level 2 Functional Skills tests in English and Maths, and have completed a minimum of 12 months of training you will be able to move forward to take the End Point Assessment (EPA).

End Point Assessment

- » Practical Assessment
- » Professional Discussion

Completion of the Level 2 Animal Care and Welfare Assistant Apprenticeship



[Click here for full course information and to apply online](#)



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The College of Animal Welfare on social media...