

A learner's guide to NVQs in Animal Care

City & 
Guilds

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The UK is renowned as a nation of animal lovers. From the dogs and cats which share almost every family home, to breeding competitions such as Crufts, to television documentaries like Animal Hospital, the evidence is plain for all to see. It's no surprise that our collective passion for our fellow creatures has spawned a nationwide network of businesses devoted to their care.

It is the people working in these businesses that our NVQs in Animal Care are tailored for. They are suitable for anyone charged with the care and welfare of animals, or considering a career in the area.

Which qualification is right for me?

Levels 1-3 NVQs in Animal Care

Level 1 is suitable for you if you are new to your profession and have little experience. Level 2 is suitable for you if you have some experience and individual responsibility and perform non-routine tasks on a frequent basis. If you have supervisory responsibility for others, you should consider level 3.

All NVQs are taken and assessed in the workplace. For more details on what's involved, please see 'a learner's guide to NVQs', available from our website's learners' section or our Customer Relations team.

What will I learn?

Level 1

At level 1 there is a single pathway which deals with the basics of animal care: feeding animals, moving and handling animals, assisting with the care of animals and their accommodation, and maintaining safe and effective working practices.

Level 2

At level 2, you can choose to specialise in the field in which you working. You will have the following choices:

- Zoos/Wildlife Establishments
- Dog Grooming
- Pet Care and Retail
- Boarding
- Animal Welfare
- Breeding
- Open Farms

There is also a general pathway, for those who do not wish to specialise.

Level 3

At level 3 you will have the following options:

- Zoos/Wildlife Establishments
- Dog Grooming
- Pet Care and Retail
- Boarding
- Animal Welfare
- Breeding
- Animal Training
- Open Farms

- Dog/Animal Wardens

Again, there is also a general pathway.

Do the qualifications form part of a recognised framework?

These awards are part of the National Qualifications Framework, which means that they will be recognised by most UK employers.

What are the entry requirements?

You don't need any prior qualifications to take an NVQ, but you will need to be employed in an appropriate position so you can be assessed while you work.

Are there any other qualifications that may be of interest to me?

Level 1 Certificate in Land-based Studies (0360)

If you would like to work in a Land-Based industry but have no previous experience and only basic knowledge of what's involved, then this introductory certificate may be for you. You can take routes in agriculture and environmental conservation, horticulture, floristry or animal and horse care, which will provide you with the knowledge and skills needed to begin your career.

Level 2 and 3 National/Advanced National Certificate in Animal Care (0341)

This award may be for you if you wish to take the level 2 or 3 NVQ but do not have the experience, or are not employed in an appropriate role. These certificates will provide you with the knowledge and understanding you would need to take the NVQ, and may help you to secure a position through which you could gain that qualification.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more by contacting your nearest City & Guilds centre. Log on to our website to find the location of your nearest one, or contact our Customer Relations team at:

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Key points

- Suitable for all levels
- Pathways allow you to specialise according to your area
- NVQs are assessed in the workplace, so you don't need to attend classes or take exams
- City & Guilds is the UK's leading provider of vocational qualifications, and our awards are widely recognised by UK employers