

**NVQs in Animal Care**  
**Learners' Information Sheet**

[www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)  
September 2006



# Learners' Information Sheet for NVQs in Animal Care

## About the Qualification

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 is 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 the NVQs in Animal Care/Management are tailored for. They are suitable for anyone charged with the care and welfare of animals, or considering a career in the area.

## Key Points

- Suitable for all levels
- Pathways allow you to specialise according to your area
- NVQs are assessed in the workplace, so you do not need to attend classes or take exams

## 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 responsibilities for others, you should consider level 3.

### Level 4 NVQ in Animal Care and Management

Level 4 is suitable if you wish to progress into and within employment at a management level.

## 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 are working. You have the following choices:

- Zoo/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 have the following options:

- Zoo/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.

### Level 4 NVQ in Animal Care and Management

At level 4, you will have the following options:

- Animal Care and Welfare
- Zoo and Wildlife Parks
- Animal Handlers on Audio Visual Production Sets

## Do these qualifications form part of a recognised framework?

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

## What are the entry requirements?

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

## Qualification Content

A full list of the units required to complete each qualification pathway is available from the NPTC website [www.nptc.org.uk/qualifications](http://www.nptc.org.uk/qualifications)

## 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 a 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)

These qualifications may be more suitable to 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.

## What's the next step?

In the first instance you need to contact an NPTC registered Assessment Centre who offers this qualification. To find your nearest Assessment Centre, go to NPTC's website ([www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)).

The Assessment Centre will be able to advise on the training and assessment of the qualification.

NPTC, Stoneleigh Park  
Warwickshire CV8 2LG  
T +44 (0)24 7685 7300  
F +44 (0)24 7669 6128  
[information@nptc.org.uk](mailto:information@nptc.org.uk)  
[www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is true and correct at the time of going to press. However, NPTC products and services are subject to continuous development and improvement and the right is reserved to change products and services from time to time. NPTC cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from the use of information in this publication.

© 2006 NPTC. All rights reserved

NPTC is a registered charity (number 1096429) established to promote education.

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG Telephone 024 7685 7300 Fax 024 7669 6128 E-mail [information@nptc.org.uk](mailto:information@nptc.org.uk) Website [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk) September 2006