

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/0420/0	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma in Animal Care (360 GLH)

What is animal care?

The animal care sector is developing rapidly from a low-grade, largely manual sector into a service industry meeting the broad demands of the animal-owning and interested public.

Animal care is worth £1 billion to the UK economy. This sector has 20,000 businesses, 78,000 employees and many volunteers. There are many different career paths and opportunities for those wishing to work in animal care, which range from working with small to large, domesticated to exotic animals in subsector areas such as animal welfare, business, science and wildlife conservation.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for you if you want to start a career in animal care. It is designed for post-16 students and can be taken as part of a wider study programme. It is an ideal qualification if you are intending to progress directly to employment within animal care, or to an animal care apprenticeship.

What does the qualification cover?

This qualification has been developed in consultation with employers within the animal sector to ensure it enables you to learn the skills and behaviours that will give you the best opportunity to be successful when applying for work.

All the content of the qualification is mandatory and relates directly to the skills, knowledge and behaviours expected by employers in the animal sector. The areas you cover include:

- animal welfare
- animal biology and health
- work experience
- feeding, accommodation and moving animals

- animal behaviour
- practical animal health.

You will also enhance your broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be invaluable in supporting progression in other areas. In addition, you will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (working with colleagues, customers and clients), and research and project work (providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem).

As part of your course, you will be required to engage with sector employers, where opportunities will be given for you to develop practical skills in preparation for employment. For this qualification you will be required to take a work placement of 75 hours in an animal care setting.

What could this qualification lead to?

Achieving this qualification will give you an advantage when applying for a job in animal care. The types of role you will be ready for are:

- animal care worker
- animal care assistant in an animal business, charity or wildlife trust
- kennel or cattery worker.

When studied as part of a full study programme, typically alongside maths or English, this qualification also gives you a sound basis to progress further within the animal sector to a level 3 qualification, such as a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Animal Management.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the following professional bodies:

- British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA)
- Pet Industry Federation (PIF)

This qualification is supported by the following employers:

- British Wildlife Centre
- Drusillas Park
- Mini Meadows Farm, Northampton
- Norfolk and Writtle Dog Training Centre
- Whirlow Hall Farm Trust

Further information

Further information about the qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-technicals/animal-care.html>