

## Statement of Purpose

### 500/8331/4 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Animal Care (QCF)

#### Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is intended as a Vocational Qualification at level 2 designed for post-16 students working at that level. It represents 30 credits and 180 guided learning hours.

This qualification is designed for students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the animal care industry and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which supports transition directly into employment and/or into further study. This qualification includes a range of optional units that introduce students to specialisms within the world of animal management.

The BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Animal Care offers flexibility and a choice of emphasis through the optional units. It is broadly equivalent to two GCSEs.

#### What does this qualification cover?

There are no mandatory units as this qualification contains a variety of optional units to sector specialist areas of animal care.

The optional units cover key areas relevant to those working within the animal care industry. They enable students to focus on specialisms within the industry and cover a range of principal disciplines that are associated with key areas for employment within the sector, including, for example, pet shop/retail, rescue centres, animal sanctuaries, zoo or wildlife parks, animal charities and animal boarding.

This qualification enables students to develop and acquire a valuable range of practical and theoretical skills that are needed in the animal care sector. Students will gain work related skills in the animal care sector, requiring them to develop and apply their knowledge in specific industry-related contexts. Examples include maintaining and meeting animal husbandry needs such as preparing and providing animal feed, preparing and maintain animal accommodation, reporting of animal illnesses, providing exercise to animals and recording and reporting of animal husbandry routines.

Students will also enhance their broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be invaluable in support of progression to employment and/or to further level 3 studies. In addition, they will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (working with colleagues, customers and clients), and research and project work (providing an opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem).

#### What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification provides a sound basis for students to progress further within the industry to a level 3 Tech Level qualification in animal management, to an apprenticeship in animal care, or direct entry to employment. Students are prepared for a varied spectrum of occupations within the industry, including animal boarding assistant, pet shop/retail assistant, rescue centre/animal sanctuary assistant, animal care assistant, animal/dog groomer or an animal charity worker.

Students are likely to take the Extended Certificate in Animal Care to gain an introduction to the animal care which will develop some of the basic skills and knowledge required by employers in the animal care industry. The Extended Certificate in Animal Care is likely to be taken alongside other programmes such as GCSE maths or English over a one-year course of study.

### **Who supports this qualification?**

This qualification is supported by the following employers and professional bodies:

- British Wildlife Centre
- The Llama Park
- The Muddy Paw
- Drusillas
- Heythrop Zoological Gardens

Support letters will be available at the following link by:  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts10/animal/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **Further information**

Further information on the qualification can also be accessed at  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts10/animal/Pages/default.aspx>.