

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7523/0	Title: BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Animal Management (720 GLH)

Overview
<p><i>The animal management sector</i></p> <p>The animal management sector is rapidly developing 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 management which range from working with small to large, domesticated and exotic animals in subsector areas such as animal welfare, business, science and wildlife conservation.</p> <p><i>Who is this qualification for?</i></p> <p>The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Animal Management is intended as a Tech Level, equivalent in size to 2 A levels and, as such, is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, when studied alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). It is aimed at learners intending to progress directly into employment. It will also support those wishing to progress to a specialist animal management degree in higher education.</p> <p>No prior study of the sector is needed, but students should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.</p> <p><i>What does the qualification cover?</i></p> <p>The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to confirm that the content is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, HE representatives have been involved to ensure that it supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees.</p> <p>There are seven mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of animal management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animal welfare, including ethics, practical animal husbandry and animal behaviour • animal science, including animal biology, and animal health and diseases. <p>There are also units covering personal and self-development, including an investigative research project and work experience.</p> <p>The mandatory units are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2: Animal Biology • Unit 3: Animal Welfare and Ethics • Unit 4: Practical Animal Husbandry • Unit 5: Animal Behaviour • Unit 6: Animal Health and Disease • Unit 7: Work Experience in the Animal Sector • Unit 8: Investigative Project <p>Students will be able to add three option units to the mandatory content. These have been designed to support progression to the range of employment opportunities in the animal management sector and, when taken alongside another level 3 qualification, to a range higher education courses.</p>

Option units introduce students to a sector specialist area of their choice, including working in particular environments, and link with relevant occupational areas. The option units cover areas such as zoological and wildlife centres/parks, farms, retailing and business, grooming and animal nursing. Students will work with different types of animals from small to large, domesticated and exotic animals, which will prepare the students for sector specialist areas.

All students taking this qualification will be required to engage with sector employers as part of their course, including 275 hours work experience with an employer in the sector, where opportunities will be given to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at which level?

The qualification will prepare students to progress directly into employment, to carry out roles such as animal care worker, wildlife conservation worker, or animal business worker/entrepreneur. This is achieved through the provision of mandatory units that address cross-sector issues and optional units, arranged in suggested groupings, to enable learners to meet local employment needs.

If this qualification is achieved on its own, specific roles for which learners would be suitable include:

- animal carer in a veterinary practice or educational establishment
- trainee animal keeper or ranger in zoos or safari parks
- animal technician
- animal charity worker
- animal attendant
- wildlife assistant
- trainee dog warden.

If taken alongside additional qualifications, such as:

- Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Agriculture, it may support entry to livestock assistant roles
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business, it may support entry to administrative or assistant roles in pet retail, or a kennel and cattery environment.

This qualification also supports progression for those seeking further learning as part of a level 4 apprenticeship in the animal welfare, conservation and science fields.

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

There are many roles in this sector where recruitment is at graduate level. The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. Normally an additional level 3 qualification will be needed, and when taken alongside a science qualification, this qualification could lead to degree courses, such as:

- BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Science
- BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing

- BSc (Hons) in Animal Management
- BSc (Hons) in Agriculture
- BSc (Hons) in Zoology
- BSc (Hons) in Animal Science.

When taken alongside a business qualification, it could lead to a degree course such as BA (Hons) in Business Management, with the potential to lead to the role of manager in an animal welfare centre.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific HE providers.

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should the student choose this one?

This qualification is equivalent in size to 2 A levels and is principally for students wanting to progress directly into work as an animal management assistant or supervisor. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression to more specialist employment.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Animal Management** is the smallest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Animal Management and is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is for students interested in learning about the animal management sector with supplementing fields of study. For example, if taken alongside A levels in Biology and Chemistry, it will allow for alternative progression routes into areas such as veterinary science.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Animal Management** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and is for students looking for a one-year course, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and who are intending to gain employment directly, or progress onto an apprenticeship in animal management.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Animal Management with Science** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and has additional mandatory and optional science content. It is for students who know they want to work within the animal management sector, either directly or following a sector-related degree.

For more detail of the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations

Professional and trade bodies

British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA)
The Pet Industry Federation
Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF)
British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers (BIPDT)

Employers

RSPCA
British Wildlife Centre
Amazing Animals
Drusillas Park

Mini Meadows Farm
Norfolk Dog Training Centre
The Llama Park
The Muddy Paw
Vauxhall City Farm
Whirlow Hall Farm Trust

Higher Education

Kingston University
University of the West of England
Harper Adams University
Myerscough College