Animal Care Level 1

Introduction

We look forward to welcoming you to The Sheffield College’s Hillsborough Campus where you will be studying on the Diploma in Land-Based Studies – Animal Care programme.

At college, we have a number of different animals that you will be able to work with as well as larger animals that we will work with when we visit Heeley City Farm. Some of the animals we have on site include guinea pigs, rabbits, rats, hamsters, mice, degus, African pigmy hedgehog, hissing cockroaches, giant African land Snails, stick insects, leopard geckos, tortoise, crested geckos and snakes.

At Heeley City Farm we will work with animals such as Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Cattle, Chickens, Ducks and ponies.

During the course you will be expected to help carry out husbandry tasks with the animals to keep them healthy. This could include feeding, cleaning, exercising, health checking, monitoring and recording weights and temperatures of the enclosure, maintaining a safe and tidy working environment, and making enrichment for the animals.

This booklet will help you prepare for your studies by introducing some important topics that you will build on during your time at college.

Claire Chatterton

Level 1 Course Leader for Animal Care

Task 1

When we work with animals it’s important that we know how to meet their needs but first we need to know what their needs are.

There are several pieces of legislation that will be introduced to you during the course, below is just one.

**The Animal Welfare Act 2006**

This piece of legislation states that all animals must have **‘5 Needs’** met by their owners.

These are:

1. Need for a suitable environment
2. Need for a suitable diet
3. Need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
4. Need to be housed with or apart from other animals
5. Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

If an owner doesn’t meet the ‘5 needs’ they are breaking the law.

Task

How would you meet the ‘5 needs’ of the following animals?

* guinea pig
* hamster
* goat

Task 2

When we work on the farm and in college with animals, it is important that we stay safe. How would the following things help us and other members of the group stay safe?

1. Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
2. Being aware of our surroundings
3. Putting tools away after we have used them
4. Washing our hands
5. Disinfecting our work boots after work

Task 3

We have different names for a group, a male, a female and a baby animal of each species. It’s important to know these so we understand what members of staff are talking about if they are referred to in class or on the farm.

Complete the table below – One example is already filled in for you

Animal Families

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Animal | Group | Male | Female | Baby |
| Guinea Pig | Herd | Boar | Sow | Pup |
| Rabbit |  |  |  |  |
| Chicken |  |  |  |  |
| Duck |  |  |  |  |
| Cattle |  |  |  |  |
| Sheep |  |  |  |  |
| Goats |  |  |  |  |
| Pigs |  |  |  |  |
| Dog |  |  |  |  |
| Cat |  |  |  |  |

Task 4

Self-management is also an important part of starting college and attending a new programme.

How do the following things help you and others learn and why are they important?

1. Being on time for class or the farm
2. Attending all classes
3. Letting college know if you are going to be absent from class
4. Bringing all equipment needed e.g. pens, pencils, paper, boots
5. Listening carefully to instructions
6. Asking if you don’t understand something
7. Working in a group
8. Working on your own
9. Being kind to other members of the group
10. Being aware of your own behaviour & language

Task 5 – Favourite animal

This task will enable you to demonstrate your written skills.

Write a short piece of work that gives information on your favourite animal.

The points below will give you ideas on what to include:

* What is your favourite animal?
* What do you like about it and what makes it your favourite animal?
* What do you dislike about it?
* Do you already own this animal?

Key Words and phrases

Legislation

Behaviour

Animal Welfare Act 2006

5 Needs

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Disinfectant