HM Government

T-LEVELS

T Level Technical Qualification in Animal Care and Management

Animal Management and Behaviour Occupational Specialism

Synoptic Assignment Guide Standard Exemplification Material Threshold Competence

City & Guilds

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Introduction

The sample evidence within this document refer to the Animal Management and Behaviour Occupational Specialism synoptic assignment. The aim of these materials is to provide centres with examples of knowledge, skills and understanding that attest to a threshold competence grade. The evidence presented here has been developed to reflect a threshold competence grade within each task but is not necessarily intended to reflect the work of a single candidate. It is important to note that in live assessments a candidate's performance is very likely to exhibit a spikey profile and the standard of performance will vary across tasks. The Guide Standard Exemplification Material (GSEM) illustrates linear performance across all pieces of evidence at the grade. A threshold competence grade will be based on a synoptic mark across all tasks.

The evidence in this GSEM is separated into the sections as described below. Evidence is presented against tasks from the synoptic assignment. Assessors using the GSEM may find it helpful to review this document along with the sample assessment materials (SAMs).

Task

This section details the evidence to be submitted for marking and any additional evidence required including any photo/video evidence. Also referenced in this section are the performance outcomes and the evidence will be marked against these when completing the tasks within it. In addition, evidence that has been included or not been included in this GSEM has been identified within this section.

In this GSEM there is evidence from:

- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task 3
- Task 4
- Task 5
- Task 6

Evidence

This section includes exemplars of evidence, photo/video recordings of the evidence in production (or completed) and assessor observation records of the assessment completed by centre assessors. This will be exemplar evidence that was captured as part of the assessment and then internally marked by the centre assessor.

Word counts

Typical word counts/page lengths, as indicated in the SAMs, are used as approximates for guidance to support the production of sufficient evidence. The marking will relate to the quality of the evidence produced and not whether the word count/page length has been met and candidates may be under or over the word count without affecting their grade.

Commentary

This section includes detailed comments to demonstrate how the evidence attests to the standard of threshold competence.

It is important to note that the commentary section is not part of the evidence or assessment but are evaluative statements on how and why that piece of evidence meets a particular standard.

Grade descriptors

To achieve a pass (threshold competence), a candidate will typically be able to:

Demonstrate an adequate level of performance that meets the minimum industry requirements to be able to enter the animal management and behaviour industry to begin work in the occupational area.

Demonstrate basic technical skills and techniques to optimise animal health and welfare. Safely carry out routine health assessments and husbandry activities to an adequate quality standard within time constraints.

Demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of human-animal interaction, applying safe and welfare orientated techniques when handling, restraining and moving animals, adapting them when necessary.

Interpret technical information to be able to plan and prepare equipment and work areas, assess risk, and follow safe working methods appropriately when applying practical skills to a sufficient standard and within relevant legislation and regulations.

Produce basic plans for the care and monitoring of animals, including relevant documentation such as health assessment records, husbandry plans and behavioural observation records.

Demonstrate adequate understanding of the factors that contribute to animals' natural environment, applying basic technical skills to optimise the animals' environment and health and welfare needs.

Demonstrate adequate understanding of animals' natural behaviour and positive reinforcers, applying basic technical skills when carrying out behavioural observations and training activities.

Carry out adequate planning and research to promote animal welfare in conservation, including assessing sources of information for validity and reliability.

Carry out basic analysis and evaluation of research to enable presentation of results to targeted audiences.

Mostly use technical terminology accurately in plans, reports and documentation.

Task 1 Health assessment

Evidence contributes to the following:

Performance outcome
PO1: Optimise health and welfare of animals

Task	Evidence	Candidate producing	Assessor producing	Included in this GSEM
a) Risk assessment	One risk assessment form (Figure 1)	√		√
b) Health assessment	2x Assessor observation form 2x Photographic evidence 2x Video evidence		√	√
c) Health check forms	Health assessment form for mammal (Figure 2) Health assessment form for animal (Figure 2).	√		√
d) Written report (evaluation and findings from health assessment)	Written report (typically 1000 words)	√		√

Task 1a) Risk Assessment

Candidate evidence – Risk assessment

Candidate's name	**Sample candidate**	**Enrolment number**	**CG12345**
Task/Activity	Task 1: Health assessment mammal and animal (ferret and Bearded Dragon)	Location	Centre training area
Assessor's name	Sample assessor	Date	28/05/2024

Item no.	What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What control measures are already in place?	Risk rating (High/ Medium/ Low)	What further action is necessary?	Action by who and when?	Residual risk rating (High/ Medium/ Low)
1	The animal (ferret / Bearded Dragon).	Self. Bitten or scratched by the animal.	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Practice in handling the animal. Don't frighten the animal. Care when handling.	High	Improved knowledge of the animal's behaviour. Methods of handling the animal are practiced.	Self.	Medium
2	The animal (ferret / Bearded Dragon).	Self. Zoonotic disease caught from the animal.	PPE. Hand cleaning.	High	Make sure examination table and hands are cleaned after handling and health checking the animal.	Self.	Medium

3	Animal Enclosure.	Self. Falls, injury when getting into or out of the enclosure. If the enclosure is damaged, may get an injury - cut or scratch. If enclosure floor is uneven may slip or trip.	Taking time not to rush getting onto or leaving the enclosure. Watch where I'm going in the enclosure. PPE.	Medium	Examine the enclosure before getting in to see if there are any damaged areas. Look at where the animal is in the enclosure before getting in. Make sure my footwear is suitable.	Self/ Manager.	Low
4	Practical room.	Self. Slips and falls. If floor of the practical room is wet or cluttered, we could slip or fall.	Make sure floor is dry. Make sure all clutter is put away or tell the assessor.	Medium	Any equipment I use is put out of the way, so I don't fall over it during the assessment. Being careful when in the practical room.	Self/ Assessor/ Manager.	Low
5	Chemicals – disinfectant.	Self/Assessor Chemical on my skin can burn cause injury. Spilling the chemical on floor, make floor wet and easy to slip	PPE. Care when pouring the disinfectant needed to clean the examination table after the health check assessment.	Medium	Tell assessor straight away if any chemicals have spilled - will need a yellow sign. Diluted disinfectant should be put into small spray containers for easy use.	Assessor/ Manager.	Low

6	Equipment (location and weight).	Self. Injury from getting carrying equipment if high up. Injury from lifting carrying equipment.	If equipment is on a high shelf, get ladder or stool to help me reach. Ask the assessor if they are taller to reach the equipment/enclosure I need.	High	Make sure all equipment and enclosures are not on high shelves. Make sure the enclosures are not heavy so we can lift them with the animal in. Lifting/carrying training.	Self/ Assessor/ Manager.	Low
7	Waste disposal.	Self. Injury from lifting and carrying the waste bag. Catching disease from animal waste in the bag.	Make sure the waste bag/bin is not overflowing or too full so not too heavy to carry. Safe lifting from legs not back.	Medium	Training in how to lift items properly. Ask for help if too heavy or use trolly to wheel the bin to the disposal point.	Self.	Low
8	PPE.	Self. If my PPE is damaged/dirty - can be injured, scratched, catch zoonotic disease.	Check my PPE is clean and not damaged before going to the assessment. Make sure I have all the PPE needed for the assessment.	Medium	If PPE is dirty – clean. If PPE is damaged - get some new ones.	Self.	Low

Date of assessment: 28/05/2024	Risk assessment carried out by: Sample candidate

Commentary

The candidate has sufficiently assessed risk by completing a risk assessment, showing an adequate understanding of the requirements of hazards, risks and control measures that may occur as part of a health assessment within relevant legislation and regulations. The candidate identified an appropriate range of potential hazards and control measures that could be considered but this often lacked detail. For example, they identified PPE as an adequate control measure for many of the hazards. However, they did not give detail as to which PPE would be suitable for each of the hazards.

The risk assessment was completed with a sufficient understanding of the difference between hazards, risks and control measures, providing an adequate range of precautions to minimise risk to themselves and others. For example, the candidate identified brief precautions to minimise the risks, although they could have provided more detail such as planning the route from enclosure to the health assessment area, or visual examination of the animals to check for any signs of illness or disease before handling. The candidate correctly categorised risk ratings and included some additional control measures to reduce the risk ratings. For example, the animals being a hazard, the candidate identified that this could be a high risk, and the control measure could be the use of PPE and improved knowledge of animals behaviour. To further improve the risk assessment, the candidate could separate the animals within the risk assessment and detail specific control measures per animal.

Task 1b) Health assessment (mammal and animal)

Candidate evidence – Assessor Observation Form

Task	**Qualification number**
Task 1b) Health assessment mammal: ferret	8717-407
Candidate name	**Candidate number**
Sample Candidate	CG12345
Centre name	
Sample centre	

Complete the table below referring to the relevant marking grid, found in the assessment pack. Do not allocate marks at this stage.

Assessor observation	**Notes –** *detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.*
Preparation for the health assessment	The candidate: • wore PPE (uniform and boots) • washed their hands before starting the task • noticed the internal door was open and thus the room was not secure. • closed the door and returned to their hand washing procedure.
Identify a mammal using techniques such as: • identification charts • collars and tags • markings.	The candidate briefly examined the animal identification details on the front of the ferret enclosure.
Carry out a visual health assessment.	The candidate did not observe the ferret before carrying out the health assessment.
Handle, restrain and move the mammal to a suitable area for a health assessment using appropriate handling and restraining equipment. (PPE and species-specific equipment e.g. carry cage, crate, collar, lead, basket,	The candidate: • collected the necessary equipment required, including a carry basket. • examined the carry basket briefly • entered the ferret enclosure, placed the carry basket on the floor and allowed the allocated ferret to enter

Assessor observation	Notes – *detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.*
harness) and techniques (welfare friendly, positioning of handler, appropriate method to the mammal/species, consistent and welfare friendly handling and restraint).	• lifted the carry basket containing the ferret without adopting manual handling • placed the carry basket onto the examination table • retrieved the ferret from the carry basket. The candidate: • placed one hand around the ferret's thorax, behind the front legs. • Inconsistently supported the ferret's weight with the other hand
Carry out a physical health assessment of the mammal.	The candidate: • carried out a head to tail health check • physical parameters including eyes, ears, coat, body, limbs and tail. • restrained the ferret using two hands throughout the health assessment, demonstrating dexterity when examining the ferret and in response to the ferret's behaviour e.g. a change of restraint grip was demonstrated when examining the body compared to the head area as the ferret became restless • returned the ferret into the open carry basket, tipped up the basket and returned the ferret to its original enclosure. The ferret was allowed to leave the carry basket • exited the ferret enclosure and closed the enclosure door • did not observe the ferret after returning.

Assessor signature	Date
Sample assessor	28/05/2024

Candidate evidence – Photographic/video evidence

Photo evidence

Photographic evidence: showing the restraint of the mammal from the front and from the side.

Photo 1 Handling and restraint

Photo 2 Handling and restraint

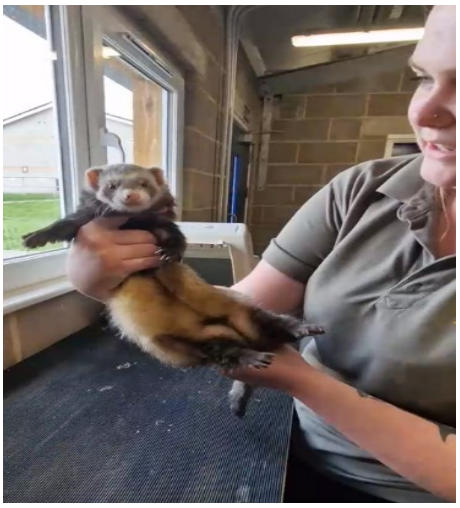


Photo 3 Handling and restraint

Video evidence

Video evidence: a video of the health assessment of the head of the mammal

Task1 Health Assessment of the Ferret TC.mp4

Candidate evidence – Assessor Observation Form

Task	Qualification number
Task 1b) Health assessment animal: Bearded Dragon	8717-407
Candidate name	**Candidate number**
Sample Candidate	CG1234
Centre name	
Sample centre	

Complete the table below referring to the relevant marking grid, found in the assessment pack. Do not allocate marks at this stage.

Assessor observation	**Notes –** *detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.*
Preparation for the practical assessment	Before beginning the activities, the candidate secured the room by closing all internal doors.
Identify an animal using techniques such as: • identification charts • collars and tags • markings.	The candidate identified their allocated animal, namely the Bearded Dragon by examining the animal records.
Carry out a visual health assessment.	The candidate did not observe the Bearded Dragon within its enclosure prior to entering the enclosure.
Handle, restrain and move the animal to a suitable area for a health assessment using appropriate handling and restraining equipment. (PPE and species-specific equipment e.g. carry cage, crate, collar, lead, basket, harness) and techniques (welfare friendly, positioning of handler, appropriate method to the animal/species, consistent and welfare friendly handling and restraint).	The candidate: • wore PPE (uniform, boots) • ensured all interior doors to the practical room were closed and washed their hands • approached the enclosures and identified and retrieved a suitably sized carry container with a lid located above the enclosures • opened the Bearded Dragon's enclosure door, entered and retrieved the animal from his basking area on a surface rock • placed the Bearded Dragon into the carry container and secured with a lid • closed the enclosure door

Assessor observation	**Notes –** *detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.*
	• moved the carry container containing the Bearded Dragon from the floor to the examination table • safely removed the Bearded Dragon from the carry container and placed him on the examination table • returned the Bearded Dragon to the enclosure using the carry container • started cleaning the carry container but realised they had forgotten the blue roll and needed to fetch some before completing the clean. The candidate: • used one hand to support underneath the thorax and abdomen and the other hand to support the pelvis and tail (photos 1, 2 and 3).
Carry out a physical health assessment of the animal.	The candidate: • touched their face with the back of their hand at the start of the health assessment. • carried out a physical health examination of the Bearded Dragon, starting at the head and working their way logically to the tail • physical health parameters checked included the nose, eyes, body, limbs, toes, tail and vent • weighed the Bearded Dragon • used dexterity while handling and examining the Bearded Dragon during the physical health check • carried out most of the health assessment with the Bearded Dragon on the examination table • safely altered their handling method when examining the vent to be able to visualise the area on the ventral aspect of the animal.

Assessor signature	**Date**
Sample assessor	28/05/2024

Candidate evidence - Photographic/video evidence

Photo evidence
Photographic evidence: photos show the restraint of the animal

Photo 1 handling

Photo 2 handling

Photo 3 restraint

Video evidence
Video evidence: a video of the health assessment of the head of the animal

Task1 Health Assessment Bearded Dragon TC.mp4

Commentary – mammal and animal

The candidate demonstrated an adequate level of performance when preparing for and carrying out their health assessment on both the Bearded Dragon and ferret to meet the basic health and welfare needs of the animals.

The candidate showed adequate consideration to health, safety and hygiene prior to starting the health assessment activities. For example, the candidate wore appropriate PPE, washed their hands and collected the relevant equipment (carry basket) before starting the health assessment. However, the candidate could have shown further consideration of health and safety, for example, the candidate cleaned the examination table and carry container after use and before returning to the storage facility but did not clean the weighing scales, which does not impact their animal but may impact other users.

During the health assessment, the candidate briefly touched their face with the back of their hand and then returned to handling the Bearded Dragon. Although this presents some biosecurity risk, because the back of the hand was used and not the same part of the hand that was touching the Bearded Dragon, this risk is lessened but ideally the candidate should re-wash or wear nitrile gloves to prevent any cross-contamination.

The candidate demonstrated basic technical skills and techniques when handling and restraining, with adequate human-animal interaction throughout the physical health assessment for both the Bearded Dragon and ferret. The candidate maintained adequate welfare standards whilst working within time constraints, but missed the opportunity to show higher level restraint techniques. For example, they handled the ferret appropriately and monitored the animal during the task. However, when the ferret was wriggling, they could have adopted a different restraint, such as the backpack restraint, which would have increased the security of the ferret during handling.

The candidate demonstrated adequate understanding of the Bearded Dragon and the ferret's health and welfare to undertake a basic health assessment using some technical skill. The health assessment included both visual and physical checks to assess the health status of both animals. For example, the candidate checked most of the health parameters for the ferret, however, some parameters were missed such as weight and body condition which could have an impact on the health and welfare of the animal

Task 1c) Health check form - animal (Ferret)

Candidate evidence – Health Check Form Figure 2

Candidate's name	Sample candidate	Enrolment number	CG12345
Task/Activity	Health assessment: ferret	Location	Small mammal Practical room
Assessor's name	Sample assessor	Date	28/05/2024

Linnaean Classification of animal: *Mustela putorius furo*

Mammal/Animal ID: ferret		
Health Check:	**Checks Completed (Tick):**	**Comment:**
Nose	✓	Nothing abnormal seen. Looks normal.
Eyes	✓	The eyes are open and clear. Ferret is blinking normally. All normal no discharge.
Ears	✓	Both ears are clear. Nothing inside the ears - which is normal.
Coat	✓	Coat is clean, not dirty. Looks shiny. No problems to find. All normal.
Movement/behaviour	✓	Looking at the ferret moving around - not limping. All normal.
Legs	✓	No swelling. All normal.
Toes / Feet	✓	All toes are present. Nothing missing. No swelling. All normal.
Tail	✓	Tail is straight, no kinking. All good and normal.
Underside - female bits	✓	All good normal looking.
Anus	✓	No faeces around. Normal and healthy.
Body weight		Not checked.
Body condition		Not checked.

Task 1c) Health check form – mammal (Bearded Dragon)

Candidate evidence – Health Check Form Figure 2

Candidate's name	Sample candidate	Enrolment number	CG12345
Task/Activity	Health assessment: Bearded Dragon	Location	Exotic animal practical room
Assessor's name	Sample assessor	Date	28/05/2024

Linnaean Classification of animal: *Pogona vitticeps*

Mammal/Animal ID: Bearded Dragon		
Health Check:	**Checks Completed (Tick):**	**Comment:**
Nose	✓	Nose looks clear and normal. This shows the Beardie is healthy.
Eyes	✓	The Beardie has two eyes. Both are open and alert which is normal and healthy. Closed eyes mean the Beardie has an eye infection.
General body condition	✓	Nice amount of weight on the pelvis Body shape is normal no signs of any problems.
Limbs and toes	✓	All limbs and toes are present. No missing toes No swelling or scratches seen.
Vent	✓	Checking the vent to see if there are any problems. The vent is clean and no discharge. This is normal.
Tail	✓	Tail has a couple of marks. The marks are clean and not swollen - so I think they are OK. No infection. This is normal.
Body weight	✓	382g

Commentary

The candidate completed the health check form with mostly accurate but basic detail relating to the signs of health and ill health for both the ferret and the Bearded Dragon showing adequate understanding of the animals' health and welfare factors. For example, the candidate listed all the physical checks that they completed, however the candidate could have included more detail for each parameter. For example, the candidate referred to 'normal' in each health check for the ferret but does not expand on what is meant by 'normal'. Additionally, the body weight and body condition were not recorded for the ferret.

The candidate applied an adequate level of knowledge and understanding to complete both the health check forms with some relevant and accurate information from the health assessment carried out and the parameters to evaluate the health of the animal. For example, the candidate identified the parameter examined, such as the Bearded Dragon's eyes and stated their findings. To further demonstrate understanding, the candidate could have interpreted their findings in further depth above stating 'healthy or normal' the then link to the overall health of the animal.

Technical terminology was mostly used with some accurate information. For example the candidate used terms such as faeces, anus and vent. However, the candidate could have expanded on these using terms, such as gait and rostrum to show deeper understanding.

Task 1d) Written report

Candidate evidence – Written report

Evaluation of practical skills

I believe I carried out a good health check for the Bearded Dragon and for the ferret.

I entered the practical room wearing the right PPE. This is important as it minimises the risk of disease spread. Both ferrets and Beardies can carry diseases like salmonella which is a disease humans can catch. I washed my hands with soap, to stop disease spread.

Ferret health check

I realised when washing my hands that I had not closed the main door into the ferret room. I stopped washing my hands and made sure the door was closed correctly before returning to finish my hand washing technique. Really, I should have closed the door before washing my hands, but I was nervous, so I forgot. Next time I would be more careful, especially as the ferrets are allowed to come out of their enclosure into the practical room. Ferrets are really curious animals, and this is really good exercise and enrichment for them.

I then went to the ferret enclosure and looked at the animal identification poster on the enclosure to see which I had been given to work with. My ferret was called Cath and had dark markings on her neck and a darker head than the others in the enclosure.

I went to get a cat basket from the storeroom, entered the ferret enclosure and collected my ferret without problem. To make sure the ferret was safe I secured the cat basket. Looking back, it may have been better if I had larger basket, so the ferret could have had more room. Making sure the ferret was totally secure in the cat basket is important as one of the five animal welfare needs says we must protect them from pain and injury.

The cat basket was put on the examination table, and I picked her up to start my health check. I started with the eyes, nose, ears then the coat/body, legs, movement and then the bottom, female bits and finished with the tail. Everything I looked at was normal. The ferret was healthy. The ferret was really good for me while I health checked her; she did wriggle a little, so I had to change the way I was holding her. When I looked at her female bits and bottom, I had to change my handling method to be able to see these areas as I did not want to tip her upside down to look. Tipping her upside down would have stressed and upset her and I didn't want to give her a bad experience.

Overall, I think it went well. I think I should have weighed the ferret to see what her body weight was and checked it against the last time she was weighed. It is important we check her health and body weight frequently just to make sure everything is OK and that she hasn't got any diseases.

Beardie health check

The Beardie was the next animal I needed to health check. I wasn’t as nervous doing this health check, so I think my health check skills were better with the Beardie. I remembered to make sure all doors to the practical room were closed before going to wash my hands.

I collected a plastic container from the shelf next to the Beardie’s enclosure. I put the lid back as I didn't think I needed it. I opened the enclosure door and easily caught hold of the Beardie placing him into the plastic container. The Beardie was quietly lying on a rock enjoying the warm side of the enclosure. Beardies spend a good amount of time sunbathing in their natural environment as they are cold blooded animals and need the sun heat to help them control their body temperature which then helps them to become more active.

After putting the Beardie on the examination table I took him out of the plastic container and started doing a health check from head to tail. I started at the head, nose, eyes, then moved to the body, legs, toes, vent and tail. I had to change the way I was holding the Beardie to check his vent. I didn't want to tip him upside down as this shows poor handling skills, the Beardie could become stressed out and does not think about the animal's welfare. I did see a few marks on the Beardies tail, but they looked healed and not sore so may have been an old injury. Everything was normal and the Beardie was healthy. I weighed the Beardie but got a little confused as to what the scale said but looking at the Beardie, he looks to be the right weight. If I was to repeat this task, I would be a little more careful and do the weight better.

I could have spent a little time looking at the Beardie before going into the enclosure to watch what he was doing and seeing if he was behaving normally. I also could have put the lid on the plastic container to make sure the Beardie was secure, although I don't think he would have climbed out of the container.

Health check forms

I completed the health check forms with all the details of what I saw when looking at the ferret and Beardie. There were some things I should have looked at and measured such as the ferret's weight and both animals' behaviour. I could have looked at the ferret and Beardie before going into their enclosures to see if there were any problems. Problems could be things like not behaving normally, not eating their food or any diarrhoea in the enclosure.

I weighed the Beardie but did not weigh the ferret. I could have weighed the ferret and seen if she had put on or lost any weight. If she had lost weight, it may be because she's not eating and so I would need to tell my manager. If she has put on weight, her food will need to be reduced so she doesn't get fat as this could cause her health problems.

I didn't look at the Beardie or the ferrets' behaviour when they were in their enclosures. Behaviour is something we look at to see if they are behaving normally and not stressed or ill. The Beardie was just resting on the rock when I entered his enclosure. He wasn't moving around and this is normal behaviour. The ferret was lively when I entered her enclosure. She was moving around and being really interested in the cat basket. This is normal behaviour and movement. Ferrets are very nosey and like to investigate anything different. If she didn't show interest in the cat basket and stayed away, that would be abnormal behaviour and she may be ill. If I thought she was ill, I would tell my manager as she may need to go to the vet.

When doing my ferret health check, I could have given more details about the eyes or the ears. I could have said the eyes were bright as well as blinking. I could have said the eyes were open normally and her eyes were not closed. Closed eyes can be a sign of illness. I could have said the ears had no wax as this can be a sign of problems.

In my Beardie health check, I could have added some detail of his bodyweight, such as the normal body weight for a Beardie. I could have put more detail in the eyes like I thought of doing with the ferret. I could have mentioned why I looked at his toes and made sure all were there. Beardies shed their skin and sometimes this can become caught on their toes. The toes get damaged and fall off. This can be a welfare problem and so we need to check the toes and skin when he's shedding.

Commentary

The candidate has demonstrated adequate understanding of the animal's health and welfare to produce a report showing a basic evaluation of the health assessment and associated documents.

The candidate provided a basic evaluation of their practical skills and the findings of their health check form, demonstrating some links between the techniques they used during the health assessment and health and welfare of the animals. For example, the candidate discussed the importance of doing a visual health check to assess the ferret and Bearded Dragon before any interaction or handling took place. The candidate could have expanded on some of the parameters that were assessed for both the Bearded Dragon and the ferret during the health assessment. For example, the candidate could have expanded on their findings of the bodyweight and checks of the eyes and what their finding show in terms of health and welfare of the animals.

The candidate provided a basic evaluation of their handling, restraint, and movement of both animals. For example, the candidate provided basic suggestions for areas for improvement including using a larger carry basket so the ferret would have more room. The candidate could have developed their evaluation further with additional suggestions for improvement based on their performance, for example addressing the biosecurity risk when touching their face at the start of the health assessment and considered manual handing when lifting the carry basket.

As part of the evaluation the candidate expanded on how they managed security during the task and identified areas for improvement to optimise the animals' health and welfare needs. For example, ensuring that doors are closed and secure prior to starting the health assessment to prevent animal escape. Additionally, the candidate referred to 'normal' behaviours throughout the evaluation of the health check forms for both the ferret and the Bearded Dragon. The use of 'normal' could have been expanded upon to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the health and welfare of the animals which could enable the candidate to adapt their practical skills.

Task 2b Husbandry Plan

Evidence contributes to the following:

Performance outcome
PO1: Optimise health and welfare of animals

Task	Evidence	Candidate producing	Assessor producing	Included in this GSEM
b) Husbandry plan	Husbandry plan	√		√

Research notes

The research notes provided are one side of A4 exemplar notes of the expected standard to be produced by the candidate but are not marked so no commentary has been provided.

Husbandry explain - how to look after the ferret

- Animal needs
- Enclosure - size, cleaning, bedding
- Husbandry plan -month - every day stuff, weekly stuff, vaccines

Animal Welfare Act 2006 - five welfare needs

- Feed a suitable diet. To be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns. To be housed with, or apart from, other animals (social). To be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease (health)
-

Diet: carnivore -meat diet; cooked chicken, ferret pellets. Healthy diet prevents illness or deficiencies. Twice daily. How much food - 50g pellets for 1kg body weight UK pet food site https://www.ukpetfood.org/information-centre/pet-nutrition-hub/small-mammal-nutrition/Ferret-nutrition.html#:~:text=The%20average%20Ferret%20will%20eat,during%20growth%2C%20gestation%20and%20reproduction.
Housing your ferrets | Indoor & outdoor ferret enclosure guide | Burgess Pet Care
Fresh clean water always. Eat too much- become overweight- avoid. Do not feed raisins, chocolate avocado/ avoid bread. Don't change food quickly as it will make the ferret ill. ferret pellets. Forage -so food in bowls and hide in enclosure to find - stop boredom, ferret more active

Behaviour: playful, inquisitive. Name means ‘’little thief’’. Enrichment - climbing - hiding - playing. Different levels. Like to forage - hiding food enrichment. Like digging - damage to feet and method of escaping. Sleep (hammocks). Clean animals so the toilet is away from play and food. Social - need other ferrets - kept in pair or groups- play interact. Behaviour change when unwell or in pain - monitor daily. Stress - not eating, lethargic, vocal, becoming aggressive to others or withdrawn. Female in season Spring/Summer- change behaviour - breeding

Accommodation - enclosure 3m long x2m high x2m wide pair ferrets / temperature 15-21C/ need to be ferret proof - good at escaping/ different levels for activity-play/ ventilation (stop diseases spread by air/wind). Toilet area away from play area and food- clean daily (litter tray). Bedding- shaving, sawdust. Fleece blankets in hammock beds. Spot clean every day, deep clean end of week. Disinfectant Safe4- 1:50 dilution (COSHH). Damage check, make sure to secure check daily - ferrets are good at escaping.

Health: Vaccine against distemper (pus discharge from nose and eyes; rash on chin and abdomen, skin becomes swollen and crusty around eyes and nose - https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/ferrets-respiratory-

disease#:~:text=%22In%20the%20Ferret%2C%20canine%20distemper,around%20the%20eyes%20and%20muzzle.) looks like flu. Fatal. Vaccine every year. Can catch from dogs. ferret influenza - can catch from humans- discharge nose and eyes. Lethargy, trouble breathing, coughing. More common in young ferrets. Parasites - fleas check daily
Health check head to tail check eyes,nose, mouth, ears, skin coat, legs, feet tail- every week. Weight check weekly. Complete a record card. Problems - tell supervisor

Candidate evidence – Husbandry plan

Monthly Husbandry plan:

- examine the ferrets in the accommodation every day and watch their behaviours – are there any signs of stress or abnormal behaviours?
- check the accommodation every morning – is there any damage? If there is inform the supervisor as they may need to arrange for repair
- clean the accommodation (spot clean during the week where we take out the dirty substrate and bedding and replace with clean; deep clean end of the week, where all the accommodation, and contents are removed and cleaned really well)
- every day - remove the litter tray, food bowls and water bowls. Clean and return to the enclosure
- every day (morning and afternoon) - put in fresh water and food. Look at the feeding regime for the ferrets to see what needs to be prepared on that day for their morning and evening meals
- health check the ferret once a week and record your findings. If there is any abnormality tell the supervisor so they can get treatment if needed. Wear PPE in case you get bitten
- change enrichment once a week so the ferret doesn't get fed up or bored of the same one
- weigh animals once a month and compare to previous records.

Changes to the monthly husbandry plan:

- if the ferret is unwell or in season or is getting old
- if there is any damage to the accommodation that needs repair
- time of the year and weather changes so they may need extra bedding to keep warm
- provide parasite treatment as directed by the veterinary surgeon or supervisor
- annual vaccinations given the same month every year at the vet practice

Ferret husbandry plan:

A husbandry plan means that we at the Guilds rescue need to make sure we provide the ferret with the five welfare needs as identified in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. We need to make sure the ferret has the five welfare needs as if this is not provided we may be fined or put in prison. This means the ferret needs to have a clean environment, the right food, fresh water, companionship and be able to behave normally. They are social animals and need regular health checks to prevent them getting infections or becoming unwell as we need to protect the ferret from pain and disease. PPE and hand washing should be followed to follow health and safety for ourselves to make sure we don't get injured as ferrets can bite.

Housed “with or apart from other animals’’

Ferrets are social, playful and inquisitive animals that are housed in groups. This means the ferrets can show their normal behaviours and this will meet the Animal Welfare Act 2006 needs. Ideally the ferret group should be of the same sex, either all female or all males, as this will stop them mating and producing young, which can happen during the breeding season. We will need to watch the groups and check that there is no fighting between animals, which can happen if we have a male group in one enclosure that is close by a female group in another enclosure.

Accommodation ‘’suitable environment’’

The ferret accommodation needs to be safe, secure and ferret proof. Ferrets are inquisitive and excellent at escaping through small holes which can cause them injury, so it's important to check the accommodation every day for any damage or areas where they could escape. Ferrets are really good at being able to escape through the smallest of holes, so if the enclosure has some damage and a hole appears, this can be large enough for the ferret to escape. If the ferret escapes it could become injured from other animals, falling or getting trapped which would go against the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

The RSPCA states a 10m square floor area to make sure they have a large exercise area. A large area means the ferrets will have lots of space to move around and be active which is really important and meets the Animal Welfare needs.

When awake and especially at dusk, ferrets love to play and jump around, so their accommodation should be large enough for them to do this without causing any injury.

The accommodation should have a large space to play, forage, hide, toilet, groom and sleep. The toilet area should be far away from the feeding area and the sleeping area. Substrates like wood shavings can be used in the enclosure as it is not toxic and is easy to purchase, so the supervisor can easily buy these items locally if we run out from the supplier. Cost needs to be thought about as we are a rescue centre and don’t have money to waste. Ferrets can have an indoor area to protect them from the weather and an outdoor area. The floor of the outdoor area should be solid to stop the ferret digging and escaping as this can cause damage to their feet when digging and stress to the ferret if it escapes outside the accommodation which would go against the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In the sleep area there should be hammocks and nesting boxes filled with bedding, such as soft paper or straw, or fleece blankets to keep them warm.

Enrichment “natural behaviour’’

In the play area tunnels, pipes and toys need to be present to prevent the ferrets getting bored and help them show their inquisitive behaviour and allow them to exercise. Enrichment like toys, tunnels are important to put in the play area as it makes sure we don’t go against the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Ferrets are clean animals and tend to use the toilet in the same area. The toilet area needs to be in a different place to the play area or the feeding area. They can be ‘’trained’’ to use a

litter tray if placed in that specific area of the accommodation. The litter tray will need to be cleaned daily to prevent a build-up of faeces and urine which can result in poor hygiene and illness in the ferrets. Dirty environment can have a lot of bacteria and viruses which can make the ferrets unwell and this will go against the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Cleaning accommodation

The accommodation will need to be cleaned daily:

- each day, we will need to complete a spot clean. A spot clean is where only the soiled areas are removed, like the litter tray and the messy area around the food and water bowls
- food and water bowls are cleaned every day before fresh water and food is put into the ferret's accommodation
- at the end of a week the accommodation will need a deep clean. The ferrets will need to be removed from their accommodation and put into a temporary accommodation while the deep clean takes place so that they do not come into contact with the disinfectant as this can be poisonous. All the bowls, enrichment, hammocks, substrate and bedding are removed, cleaned with diluted disinfectant and dried. The accommodation is also totally disinfected, cleaned and dried. Once everything is dried all toys, enrichment, bedding, food and water containers are returned. The ferrets will then be put back into their home. Not cleaning them out frequently can lead to disease.

Feeding "a suitable diet''

Ferrets are carnivores and need to be fed a meat diet twice a day. We can use food enrichment for ferrets as this stops them from being bored and keeps them active. This is good for their health and welfare.

The food provided can be cooked chicken meat or ferret pellets as this will provide the ferret with a complete diet, prevent any nutritional deficiencies or health problems and make sure the Animal Welfare Act 2006 need is met. If the ferret did not get the correct diet they could lose weight, have a poor coat condition, be lethargic and not have enough energy to play or interact with the other ferrets. Not getting enough of the correct diet can make the ferret ill and they could die. This will go against the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Food containers or bowls need to be cleaned before food can be put into them as uneaten food can get spoiled. Spoiled food can smell bad and contain a lot of bacteria which is not good. If the ferret ate the spoiled food, the ferret may become ill and may die. There are some foods that humans eat that should not be given to a ferret. Ferrets should not be fed chocolate, avocado or raisins as these foods can make them sick, but they can be given other treats on occasion.

We need to check the ferret's body weight every week, by putting them on a small kitchen weighing scale, to make sure she is not putting on or losing weight as this can be a sign of the ferret not getting enough food (this can happen if she is being bullied by the others or not being given the right amount of food or is getting old) or being unwell or if she has escaped and got pregnant.

Health and disease

Ferrets can catch lots of different diseases from a dirty environment, such as bacteria and viruses that may be living in the dirty substrate, which can make them unwell. Therefore, keeping the accommodation clean and removing any dirty substrate is important to stop any illness. If the ferret is ill, the supervisor would need to be told immediately and they would need to sort out taking the sick ferret to the veterinary surgeon for treatment. If taken to the vets, we would need to think about how to do that, such as a suitable container to transport them to the vets and a suitable vehicle. The container would need to be large enough so the ferret is comfortable but not too large that we cannot carry it easily into the vehicle and vets. The sick ferret would need to be examined by the veterinary surgeon as only they can diagnose the illness and sort out what the ferret will need to make it better. This is important as we do not want to cause any suffering or more pain as this will contradict the Animal Welfare Act.

The ferret can get injured if the accommodation is not maintained and in need of repair, so it is important we examine the accommodation daily and repair it as soon as possible. The accommodation can be damaged from the ferrets playing and interacting with each other. The accommodation will need to be looked at when we clean the accommodation, ferrets are also good at escaping so if there are any small holes we will need to repair these so to stop the ferret form escaping. If they escape they could injure themselves by falling from a height or fighting with other wild animals in the area. This will be against the Animal Welfare Act to prevent injury and suffering, se we need to make sure it doesn't happen. When repairing the accommodation, we have to be careful of our own health and safety also as we do not want to get a nasty cut as this could mean we need to go to accident and emergency at the hospital for treatment and we could be there for hours.

Ferrets can catch some ectoparasites, these are little animals that live inside the animal and can cause them to become ill, such as fleas and ear mites which can be seen when they have their weekly health checks. Fleas are really good at jumping and can also bite us and cause a nasty itchy spot, but they do prefer animals to humans if given a choice. The health check needs to start from the head and end at the tail end of the ferret. This is so we make sure we look at everything. If there is anything abnormal seen during the health check, like discharge from the ears as you would see with ear mites, this needs to be recorded and the supervisor informed. The supervisor will then make sure the ferret gets the right treatment from the vets, so it does not suffer.

References:

https://www.ukpetfood.org/information-centre/pet-nutrition-hub/small-mammal-nutrition/Ferret-nutrition.html#:~:text=The%20average%20Ferret%20will%20eat,during%20growth%2C%20gestation%20and%20reproduction.

Housing your Ferrets | Indoor & outdoor Ferret enclosure guide | Burgess Pet Care

Commentary

The candidate has produced a basic one-month husbandry plan for a female ferret, demonstrating basic knowledge and understanding of the care and monitoring of animals.

The candidate has produced a functional husbandry plan with basic structure. The overall health and welfare of the ferret has been considered by identifying the aspects of the husbandry requirements to cover monthly undertaking and changes to the plan where needed to optimise the animal's health and welfare. For example, if the ferret displays signs of sickness or the accommodation is damaged. To further develop the functionality of the husbandry plan, the candidate could have also included daily and weekly tasks, along with justifications for each aspect.

The candidate demonstrated adequate understanding of the different components of a husbandry plan, drawing some accurate links to the animals' welfare needs. The candidate could have been more concise as the candidate included some repetition and irrelevant information. For example, repetition within the plan included security of the enclosure and the irrelevant information included the procedure of taking the animal to the vets.

The candidate makes adequate justifications of the consequences to the ferrets' health and welfare if the husbandry plan was not followed or unsuitable. For example, if the ferret is not provided the correct diet it could lead to weight loss or poor coat condition. The candidate could have further explored the consequences of other aspects of the husbandry plan not being met or consequences to the rescue centre.

Task 3 Husbandry Activities

Evidence contributes to the following:

Performance outcome
PO1: Optimise health and welfare of animals

Task	Evidence	Candidate producing	Assessor producing	Included in this GSEM
Husbandry activities (mammal and animal)	2x Assessor observation form 2x Photographic evidence of the routine husbandry tasks 2x Video evidence of completion of routine husbandry tasks.		√	√

Candidate evidence – Assessor Observation Form - animal

Task	Qualification number
Task 3) Routine husbandry tasks for allocated animal (Bearded Dragon)	8717-407
Candidate name	**Candidate number**
Sample candidate	CG12345
Centre name	
Sample centre	

Complete the table below referring to the relevant marking grid, found in the assessment pack.
Do not allocate marks at this stage.

Assessor observation	**Notes –** detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.
Carry out routine husbandry tasks for allocated animal to include: • prepare feed and present the food and/or water • clean enclosure appropriately • provide suitable preventative care.	The candidate: • wore PPE (uniform, boots) for the task • gathered equipment to carry out cleaning of the accommodation. This included an excessively large bucket which they took into the accommodation • used their hands, without nitrile gloves, to remove some waste from the sand and rocks within the accommodation • left the door to the enclosure open throughout the cleaning of the accommodation • removed the food bowl from the accommodation and cleaned it by hand without using any equipment, this was then placed in the food preparation area • the water bowl was half full with clean water. The candidate did not remove the water bowl to refill it, however provided fresh water using a watering can to fill the bowl within the accommodation. • whilst refilling the bowl, drops of water spilt over the rim of the bowl within the enclosure • identified and checked the diet sheet to prepare the feed items for the animal. • collected relevant feed stuff/ingredients as per the diet sheet • did not use scales for all food items prepared. • prepared the feed in the food bowl following safe working and hygiene practice • placed the food bowl back and secured the accommodation, before disinfecting their work surfaces and disposing of waste in waste bucket

Assessor observation	**Notes –** detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.
	• selected preventative care equipment to measure the UV and temperature of the accommodation and carried out the activity to measure the UV and temperature in one location. • directed the measuring device in only one area which gave an incomplete reading

Assessor signature	Date
Sample assessor	28/05/2024

Candidate evidence - Photographic/video evidence

Photo evidence: completion of routine husbandry tasks

Photo 1 – removing waste with hands

Photo 2 – cleaning bowls with hands

Photo 3 – Filling water bowl within enclosure

Photo 4 – Preparing feed

Candidate evidence - Photographic/video evidence

Photo evidence: completion of routine husbandry tasks

Photo 5 – cleaning surfaces

Photo 6 - preventative care using a infrared thermometer

Photo 7 - preventative care using a infrared thermometer.

Video evidence: completion of routine husbandry tasks

Task 3 Completed husbandry Bearded Dragon TC.mp4

Candidate evidence - Assessor Observation Form - mammal

Task	Qualification number
Task 3) Routine husbandry tasks for allocated mammal - ferret	8717-407
Candidate name	**Candidate number**
Sample candidate	CG12345
Centre name	
Sample centre	

Complete the table below referring to the relevant marking grid, found in the assessment pack.
Do not allocate marks at this stage.

Assessor observation	**Notes –** *detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.*
Carry out routine husbandry tasks for allocated mammal to include: • prepare feed and present the food and/or water • clean enclosure appropriately • provide suitable preventative care.	The candidate: • demonstrated an adequate level of preparation of their working area before starting the task by choosing some equipment (waste bucket, cat litter scoop) to clean the ferrets' accommodation before entering the enclosure • used a waste bucket that contained waste from a previous clean • removed waste but left some old food scattered in the enclosure. • did show awareness of the whereabouts of the ferret throughout the task • wore PPE (uniform, boots). • showed awareness of maintaining hygiene of the ferrets' food and water bowls • used their hands to clean the food and water bowls • prepared the diet for the ferret using the food scoop but did not measure the food • placed the food and the half-filled water bowl next to each other in the accommodation but spilt some water within the enclosure.

Assessor signature	**Date**
Sample assessor	28/05/2024

Candidate evidence - Photographic/video evidence

Photo evidence: completion of routine husbandry tasks

Photo 1 - removing waste

Photo 2 – cleaning bowl using hands

Photo 3 – preparing feed and water

Video evidence**:** completion of routine husbandry tasks

Task 3 Completed husbandry ferret TC.mp4

Commentary – mammal and animal

The candidate demonstrated basic technical skills and techniques whilst carrying out the husbandry activities, with adequate consideration for the health and welfare needs of the Bearded Dragon and ferret.

The candidate prepared the equipment and work areas to a sufficient standard before carrying out the husbandry activities which included ensuring appropriate PPE was worn and application of hygiene measures including hand washing prior to carrying out the husbandry activities. To improve the preparation further, the candidate could have worn nitrile gloves to carry out the clean to mitigate any potential risk of contamination to the mammal and animal.

The candidate demonstrated basic use of tools and equipment to carry out the husbandry activities with safe working methods. For example, using a waste bucket to collect waste, but to increase the effectiveness of carrying out the husbandry activities, the candidate could have assessed the accommodation to select and use the most appropriate equipment to carry out the spot clean more effectively, such as scrubbing brushes and waste containers more suited to the size of the enclosure.

The candidate demonstrated adequate understanding of the health and welfare needs of both the Bearded Dragon and ferret during the husbandry activities. For example, the candidate showed an awareness of the location of both the Bearded Dragon and ferret, allowing both species to utilise the whole environment during the completion of the husbandry activities. The candidate provided an adequate diet for the ferret by preparing and presenting the feed and water within the enclosure. However, the candidate could have used weighing scales and referred to the diet sheet for the correct measurements of food. The candidate refreshed the Bearded Dragon's water within the enclosure, however the candidate could have cleaned the water bowl and refreshed the water outside of the accommodation reducing the risks of spills and water contamination.

The candidate carried out preventative care for the Bearded Dragon which was appropriate for the species and they selected the correct equipment to carry out temperature and UV checks. However, the preventative care had limited effectiveness in optimising the environment and maximising the welfare of the animal due to the candidate only taking the measurement from one area of the enclosure rather than in multiple places to gather full temperature gradient information.

The candidate demonstrated adequate understanding of animal health and welfare upon returning the animals to their enclosures. After completion of the husbandry activities, the candidate adequately secured the enclosure showing basic understanding of health, safety and security. The candidate closed the enclosures and momentarily checked the animals. To further improve the completion of the husbandry activities, the candidate could have ensured all doors were securely closed and locked and monitored the enclosures of both the Bearded Dragon and ferret for longer.

Task 4 Animal Environments

Evidence contributes to the following:

Performance outcome
PO2: Optimise animal environments to meet their needs.

Task	Evidence	Candidate producing	Assessor producing	Included in this GSEM
Environments	b) Schematic digital design with annotations	√		√
	c) Prepare a permanent enclosure		√	√

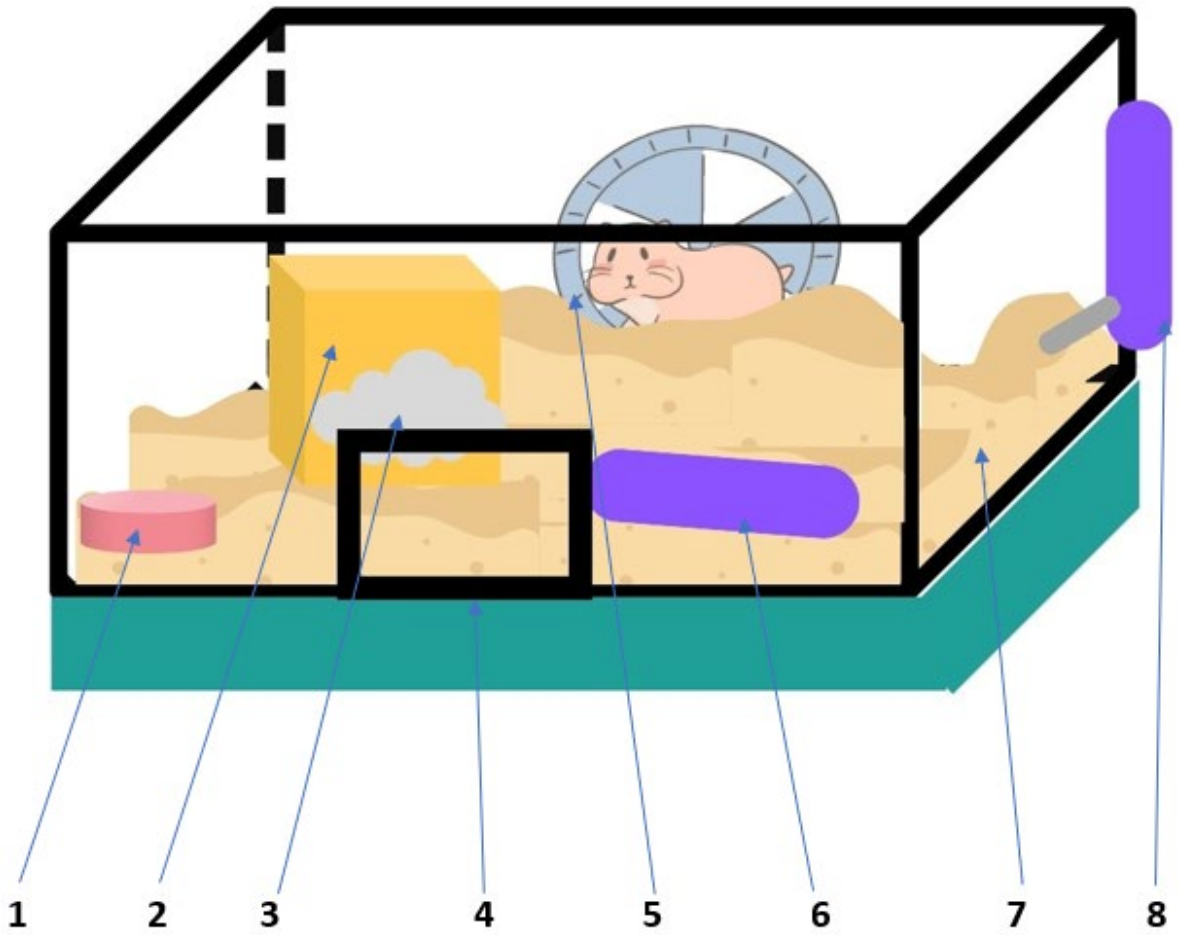
Task 4b) Digital design

Candidate evidence – Digital Design

Russian Hamster enclosure:

The enclosure has a plastic base and has metal bars, 1cm apart

Size: 59x38x38cm.



1. a food bowl so the hamster is provided with enough food.
2. cardboard house so the hamster can hide. As a prey animal, the hamster can feel scared easily so needs to have somewhere to hide. It is cardboard so the hamster can gnaw on it as part of its enrichment.
3. shredded paper bedding so the hamster has somewhere warm to sleep and can be used to as a food store. Hamsters carry food in their cheek pouches from where they find it to their nest.
4. a door with bars 1cm apart which can be locked to stop the hamster escaping. Located so people can get their hands in to replace the food but the hamster can't get out.
5. plastic exercise wheel for the hamster to use at night when it is awake. Hamsters are very active during the night so need a wheel for exercise and enrichment.

6. enrichment – this is a toilet roll tube filled with bedding and food for the hamster to explore and find food, but it should be changed every couple of days. It can be replaced with different plastic or wooden toys or special hamster treats to keep them busy and also help their teeth stay short.
7. substrate – hamsters like to dig so a deep substrate of wood shavings would be good. A layer of newspaper is put on the very bottom to help soak up the urine.
8. water bottle – this is better than a bowl as it can't be spilt or get shavings in it. The water should be changed every day.

Commentary

The candidate has demonstrated adequate understanding of the factors that contribute to animals' natural environment, producing a basic schematic digital design for a Russian hamster's permanent enclosure.

The candidate has included key features within the design which include food and water source, enrichment, substrate and housing, demonstrating adequate understanding of the requirements needed when designing an enclosure to optimise the animals' environment and health and welfare needs. For example, the candidate has considered a variety of internal fixtures and fittings to meet the welfare needs of the hamster but is missing the external conditions such as temperature, humidity and location. Within the annotations, the candidate provided a basic description of each component in the accommodation design. To further develop the response, the candidate could have linked these components to the natural behaviours of the hamster.

The candidate developed an adequate schematic design with numbered annotations listed below the design. The design shows a single view, and the enclosure is restricted to one level. To further develop the design, the candidate could have considered the natural habitat and behaviours of the hamster. For example, designing a larger enclosure over multiple floors would demonstrate a greater understanding of a hamster's natural behaviours of running, climbing, and burrowing to optimise their health and welfare. The candidate has considered basic enrichment within the design, however this is limited to two items rather than a range of enrichment that could provide more stimulation within the enclosure to meet the hamster's welfare needs. The candidate could also have included the scale within their design.

Task 4c) Preparation of enclosure

Candidate evidence – Assessor Observation Form

Task	Qualification number
Task 4c: Preparation of enclosure	8717-407
Candidate name	**Candidate number**
Sample candidate	CG12345
Centre name	
Sample centre	

Complete the table below referring to the relevant marking grid, found in the assessment pack. Do not allocate marks at this stage.

Assessor observation	**Notes** – *detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.*
Prepare a permanent enclosure to meet the needs of your allocated mammal.	The candidate: • wore appropriate PPE (uniform, footwear) • washed their hands prior to the start of the task • cleared space within the room prior to preparing the enclosure • collected some tools, equipment and materials ready to start the preparation of the enclosure. Equipment and materials included enrichment, feed and water bowls, and substrate • selected an enclosure • prepared the enclosure with a deep layer of shavings • placed carboard tunnels within the enclosure • food and water bowls were placed next to each other on a platform.

Assessor signature	Date
Sample assessor	28/05/2024

Candidate evidence - Photographic/video evidence

Photographic evidence: Enclosure

Photo 1 – permanent enclosure for hamster

Photo 2 – permanent enclosure for hamster

Candidate evidence - Photographic/video evidence

Photographic evidence: Enrichment

Photo 3 – creation of enrichment for a hamster

Commentary

The candidate demonstrated adequate understanding of the factors that contribute to the allocated animals natural environment, applying basic technical skills to prepare a permanent enclosure designed to optimise the animals environment and health and welfare. For example, the candidate has prepared the enclosure to be raised off the ground to reduce the potential risk of damp. However, the deep substrate could have been installed away from the entrance/exit to the enclosure as this creates a potential risk to the hamster's security.

The candidate has considered the health and welfare requirements of the hamster and it's natural behaviours when preparing the substrate and fixtures and fittings within the enclosure. For example, the candidate provided deep substrate and different lengths and sizes of tunnels which enable the hamster to burrow, dig and tunnel. The candidate has provided a water and food bowl, however, they could have used the scatter feeding technique which would enable the hamster to forage for their food, further encouraging their natural behaviours. Additionally, water could have been provided using a water bottle which would prevent contamination from the substrate. The candidate prepared adequate enrichment using different materials to enable the hamster to chew and cognitive stimulation to reach the reward.

The candidate demonstrated sufficient safe working methods, for example, by collecting some tools and equipment prior to starting to prepare the enclosure and washing their hands to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. The candidate could have further considered hygiene by cleaning the enclosure and enrichment before installation to prevent any risk of contamination. The candidate considered some health and safety risks by ensuring the environment was clear from any hazards, however they could have minimised risk of escape or injury by checking the enclosure for damage and the security of the door.

Task 5 Behaviour Observation

Evidence contributes to the following:

Performance outcome
PO3: Apply techniques to influence positive animal behaviour

Task	Evidence	Candidate producing	Assessor producing	Included in this GSEM
5 Behaviour observation	a) Create ethogram and recording table	√		√
	b) 30 min behavioural observation	√		√
	c) Discuss and evaluate findings	√		√

Task 5a) Ethogram and recording tables

Candidate evidence – Ethogram and recording tables

Ferret Ethogram:

- walking - moves slowly on four legs
- running – moves fast on four legs
- jumping – has no legs on the ground
- playing – being around another ferret in a friendly way
- fighting – being around another ferret in an aggressive way
- sleeping – laying down with eyes closed
- eating – putting food in its mouth
- toileting – weeing or pooing
- digging – using its front two legs to make a hole
- climbing – using four legs to climb up to a platform
- hunting – chasing something
- grooming – licking itself.

Ferret recording table

Sampling method: focal

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Walking																														
Running																														
Jumping																														
Playing																														
Fighting																														
Sleeping																														
Eating																														
Toileting																														
Digging																														
Climbing																														
Hunting																														
Grooming																														

Chicken ethogram:

- walking – moves slowly on two legs
- running – moves fast on two legs with wings flapping
- jumping – has no legs on the ground, with flapping wings
- playing – being around another chicken in a friendly way
- fighting – being around another chicken in an aggressive way
- sleeping – laying down with eyes closed
- eating – putting food in its mouth

- toileting – weeing and pooing
- digging – using its two legs to make a hole
- looking for food – moving around scratching at the ground
- grooming – using its beak to move its feathers.

Chicken recording table

Sampling method: focal

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Walking																														
Running																														
Jumping																														
Playing																														
Fighting																														
Sleeping																														
Eating																														
Toileting																														
Digging																														
Climbing																														
Looking for food																														
Grooming																														

Commentary

The candidate demonstrated adequate understanding of the animal's natural behaviours by producing a basic ethogram and recording table to monitor and record behavioural observations for both the ferret and the chicken.

The candidate has provided relevant but basic descriptions for both the ferret and chickens behaviours within the ethogram, demonstrating an adequate understanding of observable behaviours and how to identify them. For example, the candidate has identified the expectations of playing and fighting behaviours and what they might look like. To further develop this, the candidate could have identified whether these are social behaviours that the animal displays when they are happy or if they are atypical/abnormal behaviours that indicate something is wrong with the animal.

The candidate has selected a suitable sampling method and designed a recording table to capture the behavioural observation data, including all identified behaviours from the ethogram which will be recorded at 1-minute intervals. This demonstrate some understanding of monitoring animal behaviour. To demonstrate a deeper understanding of behavioural observations, the candidate could have selected shorter time intervals to record behaviours observed with a greater level of details and accuracy.

Task 5b) Behaviour observation

Candidate evidence - Behaviour observation

Completed recording table– mammal (ferret)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Walking	■			■								■				■														
Running																														
Jumping																														
Playing		■	■		■	■								■	■															
Fighting																														
Sleeping							■	■	■	■	■						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Eating																														
Toileting													■																	
Digging																														
Climbing																														
Hunting																														
Grooming																														

Completed recording table – animal (chicken)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Walking					■			■											■					■						
Running																														
Jumping																														
Playing																														
Fighting																														
Sleeping												■	■	■	■	■	■	■												
Eating	■		■						■												■	■	■				■	■		■
Toileting																				■										
Digging										■	■														■	■			■	
Climbing																														
Looking for food		■		■			■																							
Grooming																														

Commentary

The candidate completed the recording forms from Task 5a to capture the observed behaviours at their selected timed intervals. The candidate demonstrated basic detail when recording the animals' behaviours during the observation by marking the relevant box on the recording table during the observation. The candidate has mostly completed the recording table, but not all timed intervals include an observed behaviour but may have missed some behaviours during the observation, giving an incomplete overview of the animals' behaviours.

Task 5c) Written report

Candidate evidence – Written report

I created two ethograms and two recording tables for the behaviour observation which was to be carried out on a ferret and a chicken. The ethogram included a description of the behaviours I thought I would see during the observation. The behaviours that I thought I would see are the animal sleeping, moving, eating and playing. The recording table has timed intervals which enabled me to track and log each behaviour when it occurs.

I created a good list of behaviours for the ethogram but the descriptions could have had more detail as sometimes they did very slightly different behaviours that I could have tracked better. This was especially true for the ferrets, as they spent a lot of time playing with each other, doing different things and playing with the enrichment, or climbing on it, or nibbling at it. I couldn't record the detail of what the ferrets were doing as the only behaviours I had listed were playing or walking. Next time I could have included behaviours such as chasing, rolling, being chased and different ways of using the enrichment objects.

I carried out the observation within the time limit using the observation times, I recorded the behaviours every minute. I carried out my observation without interfering with the animals. I found it hard to know when to do each timed observation, I had to keep looking at my watch which caused me to drop my clipboard and scare the chickens. This caused the chickens to behave differently and this may have changed their behaviour and the results. I should have set some alarms on my phone, so I knew the correct time to check the animals' behaviour, but this noise might have affected the behaviour too. I also left the timed gaps too long so did not end up recording all of the behaviours I saw. Next time I will set the gaps at 20 or 30 second intervals to give a more accurate picture of what the animals were doing. Because a few of the chickens looked the same I had to pay close attention to which one I was observing so I didn't start looking at the wrong one. I liked the type of recording method I used, it meant I could clearly see what behaviours occurred and when. From my results, you can quickly see that the ferret spent most of its time sleeping, with a little bit of playing and walking, and the chicken did a variety of behaviours including eating, sleeping, walking and digging. I would need to do multiple observations to make sure this was a true reflection of the animal's behaviour as ferrets are known to be quite active so it was surprising how much time they were asleep for.

The behaviours I saw all show that the animals have good health and welfare in line with the 5 animal welfare needs (eating, socialising, moving freely, no behaviour indicators of pain and making use of their accommodation) During the observation I didn't see any bad behaviours, like fighting or aggression. This means that the accommodation is meeting the animals' health and welfare needs and they have enough space to show normal behaviours and enough enrichment that they are not bored and have the right social group. I didn't see any scratching or feather plucking or other behaviours which might show the animal was in pain, and even though the ferrets slept a lot I don't think this was because they were lethargic, I think it was just normal for them. I didn't expect the chicken or the ferret to sleep so much as they are not nocturnal. Maybe because it was a hot day when the observation took place, they needed to sleep more as it was too hot to run around. The chickens loved the dust bath and they scratched and rolled around in it for ages before laying down, this shows they are relaxed and not worried about predators as they could display these normal behaviours. They also use the dust bath to keep their feathers clean. When I dropped the clipboard the chickens all ran together, this is because they are pack animals and get protection from all being together, so it would be harder for a predator to choose one to

attack, this was a fear response, which is normal but if it happened all the time they might have poor welfare. Both the chicken and the ferret are social animals but only the ferrets played and interacted with each other, the chickens hung around in the same area but not actually interacting with each other. Maybe if there was some new food put in the chickens would have been more aware of each other and demonstrated their natural pecking order (dominance)

The chickens liked to scratch around at the ground for food so should be scatter fed to help encourage this behaviour as this is what they would do in the wild. I didn't see the ferrets eat so don't know if they became aggressive around food, but if they did you could stop it by giving them more food bowls, so they don't have to be protective over them. Next time I could do an observation at feed time to see if this changes their behaviour.

Overall I thought both the ferret and chicken showed a lot of normal and natural behaviour which meets their welfare needs.

Commentary

The candidate has demonstrated adequate understanding of animal behaviour to produce a basic report which outlines the findings of the behavioural observation.

The candidate gave adequate justifications of the suitability of the ethogram and recording table when used to capture the findings during a behavioural observation. The candidate concluded that smaller timed intervals such as 30 seconds would have been more effective in accurately capturing the behaviours displayed as some behaviours were missed. Next time the candidate could include the sampling method they chose and why they chose that method.

The candidate has provided a basic evaluation of the ethogram and recording table they produced, identifying that the ethogram could have included additional behaviours to improve the detail of the recordings during the observation. Next time, the candidate could have further reflected on why capturing a greater level of detail of the observed behaviours could improve the observation findings, such as what the different behaviours may indicate, for example is the animal healthy, bored or unwell.

The candidate provided a basic evaluation of the findings of the behavioural observation. This included a basic discussion of species-specific behaviours in terms of the animal's health and welfare. For example, the candidate stated that no bad behaviours were recorded, such as fighting or aggression which meant that the accommodation is meeting the health and welfare needs and there is enough space to normal behaviours. The candidate could have expanded on what the expected species-specific behaviours are.

Task 6 Training

Evidence contributes to the following:

Performance outcome
PO3: Apply techniques to influence positive animal behaviour

Task	Evidence	Candidate producing	Assessor producing	Included in this GSEM
6 Training	a) Create a training programme	√		√
	b) Risk assessment	√		√
	c) 10 minute training session		√	√

Task 6a) Training programme

Candidate evidence – Training plan

Training Plan

Animal: ferret –The ferret is not scared of people and is motivated by food rewards.

Aim: To get the ferret to walk nicely into the carry crate and then close the crate so the we can transport her to different places such as the vets without it being a stressful experience for her

Materials – Mat (this is used like a target to get the ferret to move to different places), crate (we used a cat carry cage as it was big enough to allow the ferret to move around but also sturdy enough that the ferret couldn't chew its way out), ferret food (biscuits or paste on the back of a spoon as a reward), clicker, spoon, target.

Timeline – carried out before feeding, everyday for 2 weeks. I would hope most steps of the training will be completed in 2 days but this will depend on the ferrets progress and behaviour. I will aim to train the ferret for around 15 minutes per day.

Method – Target training. I will use click and reward and the training target will be a mat.

Before starting the training we will make sure that the ferret likes the sound of the clicker. We will practice just clicking the clicker and then giving the ferret a treat so that the ferret can connect the sound of the click with food. This means that when it hears the sound in other situations it will know food is coming.

Step	Activity	Completed?
1	Introducing the orange mat (target) to the ferret – I will do this by just leaving the mat in the ferrets accommodation for an hour before the activity started. This means that the ferret has had a change to explore it and wont be worried by the new object.	
2	Click when the ferret goes onto the orange mat and give the ferret some food as a reward. To do this I will need to watch the ferret in its enclosure and then reward it every time it steps on the mat. The ferret will then connect the mat with getting food so want to spend more time on the mat.	
3	Put the orange mat into the crate – This is the start of the formal training.	
4	Click when the ferret goes onto the orange mat and give the ferret some food as a reward. – The ferret will know that the mat means food so will hopefully go straight to the mat.	
5	Close the crate door when the ferret goes inside. To keep the ferret calm and relaxed I can keep clicking and giving it food.	
6	Click when the ferret goes onto the orange mat and give the ferret some food as a reward. The task should be repeated every day for two weeks so that learning can take place.	
7	Take ferret to vets / move the cage so the ferret gets used to the feel of it moving. You should build up the length of time the ferret stays in the crate for. If it is to be a long time you might need to put bedding in with the ferret so it is comfy.	

Commentary

The candidate provided an adequate training plan for their recommended animal, the ferret, in line with its natural behaviours. The training plan describes logical steps to achieve the required learning, however, it includes some inaccuracies due to the limited number of repeated opportunities to reinforce the ferrets learning within their plan. To ensure that the training plan is successful, the candidate could include additional repetitions and timeframes for their training techniques to reinforce the achieved interaction or behaviour to ensure each step is reliably achieved before moving onto the next step.

The candidate has chosen suitable positive reinforcers in their training plan which are relevant to the species, demonstrating adequate understanding of the species-specific positive reinforcements. For example, the candidate has given a suitable food reward but they could have stated which reward would be the most high value reward for the species for the training session, encouraging higher engagement levels from the ferret.

The candidate shows a basic understanding of the ferrets learning within their training plan by recognising the importance of bridge and reward throughout the steps. The candidate could have included additional steps which recognise the success of learning and when to move on to the next step.

Task 6b) Risk assessment for implementing a training programme

Candidate evidence – Risk Assessment Figure 3

Candidate's name	**Sample candidate**	**Enrolment number**	**CG12345**
Task/Activity	Task 6b – Risk assessment for implementing a training programme	Location	Sample centre
Assessor's name	Sample assessor	Date	28/05/2024

Item no.	What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What control measures are already in place?	Risk rating (high/medium /low)	What further action is necessary?	Action by who and when?	Final risk rating (high/medium /low)
1	Ferret	Trainer Bitten	PPE	low	Improved knowledge of the animal's behaviour.	Self	low
2	Ferret	Trainer Scratches	PPE	low	Methods of handling the ferret are practiced.	Self	low
3	Environment	Trainer Trips and falls	Mind the step sign	low	Put the crate near the door of the enclosure so you don't have to walk through the whole pen and over the enrichment.	Trainer, during training	low
4	Environment	Trainer Slips	Wet floor signs PPE (footwear)	low	Examine the area before carrying out any activities.	Trainer, before training	low

Date: 28/05/2024	Risk assessment carried out by: Sample candidate

Commentary

The candidate has sufficiently assessed risk by completing a risk assessment for implementing a training programme, which would keep themselves and others safe, showing a sound understanding of the requirements of implementing a training programme. The candidate included examples of the main hazards such as, the animal, the environment and potential bites, slips and trips. The candidate listed PPE as a control measure but could have been more specific about the type of PPE e.g. gloves, boots.

The candidate demonstrated an adequate understanding of the difference between hazards, risks and control measures, and correctly categorised risk ratings. The risk assessment was completed with an adequate range of hazards and control measures. For example, the candidate identified brief precautions to minimise the risks, although they could have provided more detail on the hazard and risks associated with safe lifting of the crate and the correct manual handling techniques.

Task 6c) Training Session

Candidate evidence – Assessor Observation Form

Task	**Qualification number**
Task 6c) Carry out a training session	8717-407
Candidate name	**Candidate number**
Sample candidate	CG12345
Centre name	
Sample centre	

Complete the table below referring to the relevant marking grid, found in the assessment pack. Do not allocate marks at this stage.

Assessor observation	**Notes –** *detailed, accurate and differentiating notes which identify areas of strength and weakness are necessary to distinguish between different qualities of performance and to facilitate accurate allocation of marks once all evidence has been submitted.*
Assess the mammal or animals' behaviour and create a training programme to include: • suitability for training • potential training needs • method of training • timings of training • type of reinforcement and motivators • achieve a training goal.	Preparation: • the candidate secured the area • wore PPE (uniform and boots) • collected the equipment (target, the paste for the reward, spoon, crate, clicker) prior to starting the training activity. Carrying out the training session: • candidate placed the crate on the floor with the target located inside the crate • candidate placed the ferret on the floor some distance away from the crate • candidate used a calm, gentle and encouraging tone • candidate removed the target from the crate and dropped the target on the floor • the ferret went straight to the target and the candidate delivered a timely cue, bridging and positive reinforcement (paste reward on back of spoon) (paste reward on back of spoon) • candidate placed the target into the crate and delivered a timely cue, bridging and positive reinforcement • candidate attempted to close the door to the crate • candidate bridged and provided a delayed reward for the ferret.

Assessor signature	Date
Sample assessor	28/05/2024

Video evidence: training session

Task 6 Ferret Training TC.mp4

Commentary

The candidate showed sufficient preparation of the working area by collecting the equipment prior to starting the task. For example, the candidate collected and cleaned the target, spoon and crate. The candidate demonstrated adequate awareness and mitigation of hazards and risks, for example, using the spoon to provide the reward to mitigate the risk of biting.

The candidate applied adequate understanding of the training techniques and demonstrated basic technical skills to achieve the training goal of the ferret entering the crate. For example, the bridge and reward were delivered in quick succession, however the candidate only delivered one set of bridging and positive reinforcement per cue. This impacted the reliability of the ferrets learning during the training session. The candidate could have applied the positive reinforcement in a more timely manner as soon as the ferret finished the correct behaviour to ensure that the correct behaviour is being reinforced, and reduce the risk of reinforcing the ferret after it has moved on.

The candidate carried out the training session to an adequate standard whilst maintaining the welfare of the ferret by remaining calm, using a gentle and encouraging tone. The candidate could have shown more awareness to the fight or flight reaction of ferret by placing the target on the floor rather than dropping the target.

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