

Curriculum Summary Document Year 9 – Animal Care

Module/Unit of Learning	Taught During	What will students learn?	What enriching opportunities will students engage in?	Links to other Subjects
Introduction to Animal Care	Autumn 1	Students will be introduced to the new Animal Care course and the Farm over a series of lessons. Students will learn about safe working practices around animals and when handling tools. Students will be introduced to each animal species (companion, reptile, invertebrate, livestock and avian), learning about their origins, behaviour patterns and basic health and welfare practices.	During this unit, students will be challenged to complete practical tasks on the farm, as well as written work based on each animal species. Students will be introduced to subject specific vocabulary and concepts that they will use when working. Opportunities to meet industry professionals e.g., veterinary surgeon, nurses	Science
Animal Health	Autumn 2	Students will learn to identify signs of good and ill health in a range of animal species, using quantitative and qualitative parameters. Students should understand the importance of carrying out routine health checks and be able to systematically carry these out. Students will understand basic animal care routine procedures e.g., identification, vaccination, worming and neutering. Students will be able to identify signs of stress in animal species and how to reduce this.	Students will be challenged to work effectively and systematically when on the farm, using their acquired knowledge to complete health checks and routine procedures on a range of animal species when on the farm. Students will be challenged to critically analyse their techniques and adapt these to maximise productivity and animal welfare.	Science (veterinary)
Animal Disease	Spring 1	Students will learn the characteristics of bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, alongside the related animal diseases caused by each. Students will understand the modes of disease transmission (direct, indirect and vector), and will understand how to implement measures to prevent disease spread. Students will be able to identify zoonotic and notifiable diseases and understand the animal health legislation surrounding each.	Students will be challenged with real-life scenarios and problem solving that they must apply knowledge gained from this topic. Students will need to design and work to specific practices that work alongside animal health legislation and maximise animal welfare.	Science







Animal Handling – Behaviour, health, safety and welfare	Spring 2 and Summer 1	Students will learn about the behaviour patterns and functions of companion animals, reptiles, birds, invertebrates, and livestock. Students will be able to identify external and internal factors that can affect behaviour patterns and behavioural signs that indicate poor health, stress, and poor welfare. Students will be able to identify hazards and risks relating to animal handling and be able to adapt restraint techniques to reduce risks when carrying out animal handling. Students will learn about reasons for handling animals (health checking, grooming, medication administration, sexing, exercising and transport). Students will learn the appropriate handling and restraint techniques for each animal species, including correct head and limb positions, support of upper and lower body and reduction of potential stress placed on the animal. Students will be able to select the correct equipment for use in catching, restraint, handling, and release, whilst considering the age, species, size, and temperament of the animal.	Students will be challenged to use correct techniques and equipment when handling animals on the farm. Students will be responsible for ensuring minimal stress is placed on the animal being handled. Students will be able to carry out simple routine procedures with minimal instruction e.g., nail trimming, grooming, and sexing.	
Preparing and Selecting Animal Accommodation	Summer 1 and Summer 2	Students will learn the factors that affect the suitability of animal accommodation for a range of animal species. Students will be able to understand how these factors relate to the five-animal welfare needs of each species. Students will be able to identify and describe the most appropriate accommodation for each species, including design, materials, fixtures and fittings, enrichment, and properties of bedding material. Students will be able to apply the knowledge taught in the classroom	Students will be challenged to apply knowledge to practical scenarios, identifying, designing and preparing accommodation for a range of animal species. Students will be responsible for ensuring that accommodation they prepare meets the five-animal welfare needs.	Science







to real-life scenarios. They will prepare and clean animal accommodation to industry standards for specified animals.	
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