



Qualification Specification: Awards in Animal Studies Suite

GA Level 3 Award in Aquatic Species Studies	603/7699/5
GA Level 3 Award in Bird Species Studies	603/7700/8
GA Level 3 Award in Carnivore Studies: Big Cats	603/7701/X
GA Level 3 Award in Elephant Studies	603/7703/3
GA Level 3 Award in Farm Animal Studies	603/7708/2
GA Level 3 Award in Primate Studies	603/7710/0
GA Level 3 Award in Reptile Studies	603/7711/2
GA Level 3 Award in Zoo Animal Nutrition	603/7723/9
GA Level 3 Award in Birds of Prey Studies	610/0139/9

These qualifications are subject to the GA Centre Assessment and Standards Scrutiny and General Moderation policy.

Section 1: Qualifications Overview

1.1 Introduction: About these Qualifications

Gatehouse Awards (GA) qualifications are designed to give candidates the skills to be active in the modern labour market and progress in their career and/or into higher level study.

This specification covers the range of animal studies award-sized qualifications at Level 3.

This document provides centre staff, candidates and employers with an overview of the qualification content as well as the assessment and quality assurance requirements for these qualifications.

These qualifications are regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulations (Ofqual) in England and are part of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). All versions of this qualification are listed on the Register of Regulated Qualifications which is operated by Ofqual at <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>.

These qualifications are not designed to replace existing qualifications.

1.2 Qualification Titles, Qualification Numbers and Important Dates

Qualification Title and Level	Qualification Number	Operational Start Date	Operational Review Date
GA Level 3 Award in Aquatic Species Studies	603/7699/5	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Bird Species Studies	603/7700/8	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Carnivore Studies: Big Cats	603/7701/X	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Elephant Studies	603/7703/3	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Farm Animal Studies	603/7708/2	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Primate Studies	603/7710/0	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Reptile Studies	603/7711/2	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Zoo Animal Nutrition	603/7723/9	12-07-2021	July 2026
GA Level 3 Award in Birds of Prey Studies	610/0139/9	10-11-2021	Nov 2026

1.3 Qualification Aims and Objectives

These qualifications are ideal qualifications which will enhance candidates' job prospects and provide the underpinning knowledge for a successful career in the animal care sector.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Aquatic Species Studies, learners will gain knowledge of aquatic species' biology, ecology and behaviour. Learners will understand different conservation efforts to protect aquatic species. In addition, learners will also develop an understanding of how to care for aquatic species and how to promote their welfare.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Bird Species Studies, learners will gain knowledge of bird biology, bird behaviour and how birds interact with their environment and other species. Learners will understand different conservation efforts to protect bird species. Furthermore, learners will also develop an understanding of how to care for birds and how to promote their health and welfare.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Carnivore Studies: Big Cats, learners will understand the diversity of carnivorous big cats found worldwide in the animal kingdom along with their evolution, biology and behaviour. In addition, learners will understand the principles of big cat conservation and how to ensure the welfare and appropriate care of big cats that are kept in captivity.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Farm Animal Studies, learners will gain knowledge of promoting farm animal health and welfare. Learners will also develop an understanding of the legislation applicable to farm animals and the role of legislation in relation to farm animal welfare.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Elephant Studies, learners will gain knowledge of elephant evolution, biology, ecology and behaviour. Learners will also understand different conservation efforts to protect elephants in addition to gaining an understanding of elephants in captivity and how to promote elephant welfare.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Primate Studies, learners will gain knowledge of primate species biology, ecology and behaviour. Learners will also understand different conservation efforts to protect primate species and gain an understanding of primate management.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Reptile Studies, learners will gain knowledge of reptile biology, reptile behaviour and understand different conservation efforts to protect reptiles. Learners will also develop an understanding of how to care for reptiles and how to promote reptile welfare.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Zoo Animal Nutrition, learners will understand how to provide suitable nutrition for a range of zoo animal species in addition to understanding the consequences of poor nutrition to zoo animal health and welfare. Learners will also know how to create feeding plans, understand how to keep nutritional records and comply with legislation.

In the GA Level 3 Award in Birds of Prey Studies, learners will gain knowledge of the different birds of prey commonly found in the wild and in captivity in the UK, their habitats and the

threats facing UK birds of prey. Learners will understand the basic biology of birds of prey and the health care birds of prey require, as well as common diseases and the basic welfare needs of birds of prey. In addition, learners will develop an understanding of the nutritional requirements of birds of prey and understand the situations when birds of prey may need emergency care, rehabilitation and re-release.

1.4 Qualification Structure and Overview: Units, GLH, TQT, Level and Credit Value

The structure of these qualifications is as follows:

GA Level 3 Award in Aquatic Species Studies				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. Aquatic Species Biology, Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation	M/618/7846	5	35	15
2. Aquatic Species Care and Welfare	T/618/7847	5	35	15
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 70	TQT** 100

GA Level 3 Award in Bird Species Studies				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. Bird Biology, Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation	A/618/7848	5	35	15
2. Bird Care, Health and Welfare	F/618/7849	5	40	10
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 75	TQT** 100

GA Level 3 Award in Carnivore Studies: Big Cats				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. The Diversity of Carnivores: Big Cats	T/618/7850	4	30	10
2. The Principles of Carnivore Care and Conservation: Big Cats	A/618/7851	6	40	20
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 70	TQT** 100

GA Level 3 Award in Elephant Studies				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. Elephant Evolution, Biology, Ecology and Behaviour	K/618/7862	5	40	10
2. Elephants in Captivity and Elephant Conservation	M/618/7863	5	40	10
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 80	TQT** 100

GA Level 3 Award in Farm Animal Studies				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. Farm Animal Health and Welfare	T/618/7864	5	45	5
2. Farm Animal Welfare Management, Nutrition and Legislation	A/618/7865	5	35	15
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 80	TQT** 100

GA Level 3 Award in Primate Studies				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. Primate Biology, Ecology and Behaviour	F/618/7866	5	35	15
2. Primate Management, Welfare and Conservation	J/618/7867	5	35	15
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 70	TQT** 100

GA Level 3 Award in Reptile Studies				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. Reptile Biology, Behaviour and Conservation	L/618/7868	5	40	10
2. Reptile Care and Welfare	R/618/7869	5	40	10
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 80	TQT** 100

GA Level 3 Award in Zoo Animal Nutrition				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. The Principles of Zoo Animal Nutrition	R/618/7922	3	25	5
2. The Nutrition of Herbivores, Omnivores and Carnivores in Zoos	Y/618/7923	3	25	5
3. Zoo Animal Nutritional Health and Welfare	D/618/7924	3	25	5
4. Zoo Animal Feeding Solutions and Legislation	H/618/7925	3	25	5
		Total Credits 12	Total GLH* 100	TQT** 120

GA Level 3 Award in Birds of Prey Studies				
Mandatory Units	Unit Reference	Credits	GLH*	Study Time**
1. Birds of Prey Species, Biology and Habitat	D/650/0656	5	40	10
2. Birds of Prey Care, Health and Welfare	F/650/0657	5	40	10
		Total Credits 10	Total GLH* 80	TQT** 100

***Guided Learning Hours (GLH): Definition**

The activity of a learner in being taught or instructed by – or otherwise participating in education or training under the immediate guidance or supervision of – a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

****Total Qualification Time (TQT): Definition**

The number of Guided Learning Hours assigned, plus an estimate of the number of study hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, which takes place as directed by – but, unlike Guided Learning, not under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training.

The number of study hours a learner is expected to undertake in order to complete each unit is expressed in the 'Study Time' above. This, including the GLH, provides the Total Qualification Time, or TQT, and represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of these qualifications.

The estimates for Guided Learning Hours and Total Qualification Time above have been produced with due regard to information gathered from those with experience in education and training and is in line with guidance published by Ofqual on the allocation and expression of Total Qualification Time and Guided Learning Hours.

Level

The qualification within this specification is designated at Level 3 on the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) according to the Level Descriptors for knowledge and understanding, which build on those used within the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). This means that this qualification is considered by GA to lead to the outcome as follows:

Achievement at Level 3 reflects the ability to identify and use factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks and address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine, interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas, and reflects an awareness of the nature of the area of study or work and different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.

1.5 Rules of Combination

These qualifications each consist of mandatory units. There are no optional units.

The mandatory units within each qualification are detailed in Section 1.4 above. Candidates must successfully demonstrate their achievement of all the learning outcomes and assessment criteria within the mandatory units.

The learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit are provided in Section 4 below.

There are no further rules of combination.

1.6 Intended Audience, Age and Entry Requirements

These qualifications are ideal for learners who work in, or intend to enter, an animal care-related career.

These qualifications are intended for learners aged 16 and above.

There are other no formal entry requirements for these qualifications; however, due to the nature of the qualification content, those undertaking the qualification must have a proficient level of spoken and written English.

It is recommended that prior to commencing a programme of study leading to any of these qualifications, candidates receive detailed advice and guidance from the training provider in order to ensure the programme and qualification will meet their needs.

1.7 Recognition of Prior Learning and Transfer of Credits

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a method of assessing whether a learner's previous experience and achievements meet the standard requirements of a GA Unit or Units prior to the candidate taking the assessment for the qualification, or part of the qualification, they are registered for.

Any prior learning must be relevant to the knowledge, skills and understanding which will be assessed as part of that qualification, and GA will subsequently amend the requirements which a candidate must have satisfied before they are assessed as eligible to be awarded the qualification.

Where there is evidence that the candidate's knowledge and skills are current, valid and sufficient the use of RPL may be acceptable for recognising achievement of assessment criteria, learning outcome or unit(s). The requirement for RPL in such instances must also include a consideration of the currency of the knowledge gained by the candidate at the time they undertook the prior learning. RPL cannot be guaranteed in instances where industry practice or legislation has significantly changed in the time since the prior learning was undertaken / a previous award was issued.

No transfer of credits is permitted.

1.8 Relationship to Other Qualifications & Progression Opportunities

The GA Level 3 Awards in animal studies subjects are ideal qualifications from which a learner might progress onto higher level study, practical occupational training or careers in animal care and welfare.

Careers in this sector include animal welfare officers, animal licensing inspectors and careers in wildlife, zoos, safari parks and animal rehabilitation centres.

1.9 Language of Assessment

These qualifications are offered in English.

Further information concerning the provision of qualification and assessment materials in other languages may be obtained from GA.

1.10 Grading

All learning outcomes and assessment requirements must be met before a learner can be considered having achieved these qualifications.

These qualifications are not graded on a scale. Learners are assessed as Pass or Fail. Learners who aren't successful can resubmit work within the registration period.

1.11 Qualification Availability

These qualifications are available via GA Approved Centres in the UK and internationally. If you would like further information on offering these qualifications, please contact us.

Our contact details appear on our website, www.gatehouseawards.org

Section 2 – Qualification Delivery, Assessment Model and Certification

2.1 Teaching and Learning Requirements

Courses leading to these qualifications may consist of e-learning courses or classroom-based courses, or a blended option.

Learners can therefore undertake learning and assessment on a flexible basis.

Candidates must have suitable access to teaching and assessment staff as well as technical support. Specialist staff, high quality learning materials and access to assessment opportunities are essential for all centres.

Further details and guidance on the content of teaching and learning for each unit can be found in the Unit Specifications in Section 4 below.

2.2 Assessment and Quality Assurance Model

These qualifications are delivered in-centre, where learners' work is internally assessed and internally moderated by centre staff to clearly show where learners have achieved the learning outcomes and qualification requirements. There is no requirement for external assessment.

Assessment, internal moderation and quality assurance activities are subject to external moderation and quality assurance conducted by GA. Centres operating this model are subject to the GA Centre Assessment and Standards Scrutiny (CASS) and General Moderation Policy.

2.3 Registering Candidates & Unique Learner Numbers

Candidates must be registered through the Ark, the GA online Learner Management System.

Owing to the Total Qualification Time of these qualifications, the validity period of registrations made will be 52 weeks. Should a candidate not have achieved in the timescale, a new registration is required.

Each approved GA centre is provided with a user account to allow approved staff access to the online system.

Where the Unique Learner Number (ULN) of a candidate is known, this should be provided at the point of registration in order for GA to issue updates to the Learner Record Service.

2.4 ID Requirements

It is the responsibility of the centre to have systems in place to confirm each learner's identity.

Learners are required to declare that all work submitted for assessment is their own work.

2.5 Record Keeping

Records of learner's details, their work and any records of Reasonable Adjustments, Special Considerations and records containing learners' personal details must be kept by the centre in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 (including GDPR and all relevant privacy regulations) for a minimum of 2 years.

The centre must operate a safe and effective system of care and comply with clinical and information governance requirements, with appropriate policies and procedures in place to maintain confidentiality related to clients, staff and learners.

All records must be easily retrievable and made available to GA or the Regulator upon request.

Portfolios must be retained until the following External Quality Assurance visit to allow them to be sampled. Following external moderation and the award of a qualification by GA, centres may return portfolios to learners.

Records of all internal quality assurance and moderation activity undertaken must be kept and made available to GA upon request.

Section 3 – Centre Requirements: Assessment & Quality Assurance

Course providers offering these GA qualifications must ensure that they have the following resources in place.

3.1 Staff

The knowledge and experience of all staff involved in the teaching, assessment and internal quality assurance of these qualifications will be considered during the approval and re-approval process and at External Quality Assurance Visits.

The course provider must ensure that they hold up-to-date and detailed information about the staff involved with the delivery and quality assurance of these qualifications and must make records available to GA upon request. The information GA expects the course provider to hold for each member of staff includes, as a minimum:

- current up to date CV
- copies of relevant qualification certificates
- relevant and up to date CPD (Continuous Professional Development) records

The course provider must also ensure that they have the management and administrative arrangements in place which are suitable to support the registration of candidates and the qualification delivery.

Requirements for Teachers and Assessors

Those delivering and assessing these qualifications must hold relevant qualifications.

Teachers and Assessors must hold relevant qualifications and have relevant expertise and experience.

GA recommends that Assessors hold relevant teaching or assessing qualifications suitable to support the making of appropriate and consistent assessment decisions.

Suitable teaching and assessing qualifications may include:

- Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement
- Level 3 or 4 PTLLS, or above (i.e. CTLLS or DTLLS)
- Level 3 or 4 Award/Certificate in Education and Training, Cert. Ed or PGCE
- Degree in Education
- Level 3 or 4 NVQ in Training and/or Learning & Development.

Assessors may be working towards a relevant equivalent teaching/assessing qualification under the guidance of a suitably qualified, experienced Assessor and their Internal Verifier.

Where a Teacher or Assessor does not hold teaching or assessing qualifications, they must ensure that they are able to demonstrate that they have delivered a minimum of 30 hours of teaching or assessing.

All staff involved with the delivery and assessment of these qualifications must also be able to demonstrate ongoing professional development relevant to the sector subject area.

Requirements for Internal Moderators (also referred to as an Internal Quality Assurers or IQAs)

Assessors may have one or several appointed Internal Moderators.

These qualifications are assessed by an Assessor and internally moderated and quality assured by an Internal Moderator to ensure standardisation, reliability, validity and sufficiency of the Assessor's assessment decisions.

Internal Moderators therefore need to have a thorough understanding of quality assurance and assessment practices, as well as sufficient technical understanding related to the qualifications that they are internally quality assuring. It is the centre's responsibility to select and appoint Internal Moderators.

To be able to perform the internal moderation and quality assurance role, an Internal Moderator must:

- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of the specific occupational field
- have up-to-date working knowledge and experience of best practice in assessment and quality assurance
- hold one of the following Assessor qualifications or their recognised equivalent:
 - Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
 - Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement
 - A1 Assess candidate performance using a range of methods
 - D32 Assess candidate performance and D33 Assess candidate using differing sources of evidence
- hold one of the following internal quality assurance qualifications or their recognised equivalent:
 - Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
 - Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice
 - V1 Conduct internal quality assurance of the assessment process
 - D34 Internally verify the assessment process
- show current evidence of continuing professional development in assessment and quality assurance.
- In addition, Internal Moderators must be familiar with GA's qualification requirements.

Internal Moderators may be working towards a relevant equivalent quality assurance qualification under the guidance of a suitably qualified and experienced Internal Moderator.

The Internal Moderator must have relevant occupational experience and hold relevant qualifications in the particular subject area being assessed. They must hold a regulated qualification at least at the level of the qualification they are assessing.

The knowledge and experience of Teachers, Assessors and Internal Moderators will be considered during the centre and qualification approval process and at External Quality Assurance Visits.

External Moderation (also referred to as External Quality Assurance or EQA)

Assessment and internal moderation and quality assurance activities are subject to external moderation and wider scrutiny and centre controls as per GA's quality assurance arrangements for centre-assessed qualifications

3.2 Assessment of Candidates

The centre must ensure that Assessors meet the requirements listed in Section 3.1 above in order to make assessment decisions leading to the award of these GA qualifications.

Candidates are assessed on the evidence contained within their portfolio.

3.3 Portfolio Requirements

Learners are expected to build a portfolio of evidence, clearly demonstrating where they have met the learning outcomes and qualification requirements.

Various types of evidence may be used, for example:

- essays/assignments
- short questions and answers
- workbooks
- professional discussions
- observations of performance in the workplace
- product evidence
- reflective accounts
- witness testimony
- records of questioning

Evidence in the portfolio should be mapped against the learning outcomes, reflect the type of evidence supplied and indicate its location within the portfolio. By using portfolio reference numbers, it will enable the learner, assessor, IQA and EQA to quickly locate the evidence submitted.

All evidence must meet CRAVES requirements.

3.4 CRAVES Requirements

Assessors must ensure that all evidence within the learner's portfolio judged to meet GA's 'CRAVES' requirements is:

- **current:** the work is relevant at the time of the assessment
- **reliable:** the work is consistent with that produced by other learners
- **authentic:** the work is the candidate's own work
- **valid:** the work is relevant and appropriate to the subject being assessed and is at the required level
- **evaluated:** where the learner has not been assessed as competent, the deficiencies have been clearly and accurately identified via feedback to the learner
- **sufficient:** the work covers the expected learning outcomes and any range statements as specified in the criteria or requirements in the assessment strategy.

3.5 Internal Moderation and Quality Assurance Arrangements

Internal Moderators (also known as Internal Quality Assurers or IQAs) ensure that Assessors are assessing to the same standards, i.e. consistently and reliably, and that assessment decisions are correct. IQA activities will include:

- ensuring Assessors are suitably experienced and qualified in line with the qualification requirements
- sampling assessments and assessment decisions
- ensuring that assessment decisions meet the GA 'CRAVES' requirements (Current, Reliable, Authentic, Valid, Evaluated and Sufficient)
- conducting standardisation and moderation of assessment decisions
- providing Assessors with clear and constructive feedback
- supporting Assessors and providing training and development where appropriate
- ensuring any stimulus or materials used for the purposes of assessment are fit for purpose.

Sampling of assessment will be planned and carried out in line with a clear IQA and moderation strategy, which incorporates the number of learners, number of Assessors, and the experience and competency of Assessors.

Centre IQAs may wish to refer to the guidance documents provided by GA to approved centres (available on the Ark) in order to formulate an appropriate Sampling Strategy.

3.6 External Moderation and Quality Assurance Arrangements

All GA Approved Centres are entitled to two EQA visits per year. Additional visits can be requested, for which there may be an additional charge.

EQA activities will focus on the centre's continuing adherence to and maintenance of the GA *Centre Approval Criteria* and the criteria and requirements for the specific qualifications for which it holds approval. These include:

- checking that the management of the centre and the management arrangements relating to the qualification are sufficient
- checking that resources to support the delivery of the qualifications, including physical resources and staffing, are in place and sufficient
- ensuring that the centre has appropriate policies and procedures in place relevant to the organisation and to the delivery and quality assurance of the qualifications
- the use of assessment materials and the arrangements in place to ensure that evidence for assessment is 'CRAVES' (Current, Reliable, Authentic, Valid, Evaluated and Sufficient)
- sampling assessment decisions against the qualification requirements across the range of levels, number of Assessors and assessment sites, according to the number of candidates
- the internal moderation and quality assurance arrangements
- sampling internal moderation records against the qualification requirements across the range of levels, number of Assessors and assessment sites, according to the number of candidates
- administrative arrangements
- ensuring that any actions from moderation and wider quality assurance activity have been carried out by the centre
- confirming any claims for RPL, reasonable adjustments or special considerations

Through discussions with centre staff, examining learner's work, moderation of assessment, talking to learners and reviewing documentation and systems, the GA EQA will provide the centre with full support, advice and guidance as necessary.

3.7 Venue Requirements

When training premises are used in the delivery of teaching and assessment of these qualifications, centres should, wherever possible, provide suitable access in line with Disability Discrimination, Diversity & Equality law and regulations and any other regulations which apply.

3.8 Equipment

Centres must ensure that all products and equipment used in the delivery and assessment of these qualifications must be authorised by GA and confirmed as fit for purpose and compliant with current Health and Safety legislation and any other relevant regulations. This will be considered at approval and during the on-going monitoring of centres.

Where specific products and equipment are required for the delivery and assessment of a GA qualification, the suitability of the products and equipment at the centre will be considered during the centre and qualification approval process and at External Quality Assurance Visits.

3.9 Teaching and Learning Resources

GA does not prescribe the use of set course books, workbooks or other materials but expects that centres providing such courses should use relevant and up-to-date, high quality teaching and learning materials which allow candidates to adequately prepare for assessment.

All delivery and assessment resources should be inclusive of the principles of equality and diversity and the safeguarding of candidates.

Please note, any references to books, journals, websites or other third party materials and publications made by GA does not infer that GA's accepts responsibility for the content of such materials or any opinions expressed within them.

3.11 Results

Centres may make claims for certification via the Ark when learners complete and the Assessor and Internal Moderator have confirmed achievement. Such claims for certification are subject to successful external moderation (EQA). Following the External Moderator's confirmation of a learner's achievement, GA will authorise claims for the certification of learners, details of which will be visible to the centre in the centre's Ark account. Certificates are usually issued within 10 working days of the award of the qualification.

3.12 Certificates

The qualification certificate will indicate both the title and the level at which the qualification is achieved.

Certificates will only be issued to learners who have achieved sufficient credits and met the rules of combination for the qualification they are registered for. If a learner has not achieved sufficient credits or failed to meet the rules of combination, the qualification certificate will not be issued.

Replacement certificates are available upon request.

Amendments to certificates are available upon request but may require the centre to provide evidence of the need for any amendment (e.g. learner proof of identification) and will involve the return of the original certificate. Replacements and amendments may incur an additional charge.

3.13 Direct Claims Status (DCS)

Direct Claims Status is not available for these qualifications.

3.14 Appeals and Enquiries

GA has an appeals procedure in accordance with the arrangements for regulated qualifications.

General enquiries can be made at any time and should be directed to a GA Centre Administrator.

3.11 Ongoing Support

There are a number of documents on the GA website that centres and candidates may find useful: www.gatehouseawards.org

The website is updated regularly with news, information about all GA qualifications, sample materials, updates on regulations and other important notices.

Within the centre, a named Examinations Officer is responsible for ensuring that all information and documents provided to centre staff and candidates are correct and up to date.

GA must be kept up to date with contact details of all changes of personnel so centres can be provided with the best level of support and guidance.

At the time of approval, centres are assigned a designated Centre Administrator who is their primary point of contact for all aspects of service or support.

Learners should always speak to a member of staff at the centre for information relating to GA and our qualifications prior to approaching GA directly.

Contact details for GA can be found on the GA website www.gatehouseawards.org.

Section 4: Unit Specifications

4.1 GA Level 3 Award in Aquatic Species Studies (603/7699/5)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	Aquatic Species Biology, Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation.	35	5	M/618/7846
The learner will develop an understanding of how aquatic species function from understanding aquatic species biology and ecology to natural behaviours. Learners will also develop an understanding of the different conservation efforts to protect aquatic species.				
Assessment Guidance				
Assessment must include freshwater, marine and tropical aquatic species.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will	The learner can
1. understand aquatic species' biology.	1.1 Describe the different classes of aquatic species.
	1.2 Explain the key concepts of aquatic species biology.
	1.3 Describe how aquatic species move.
	1.4 Describe how aquatic species respire.
	1.5 Explain how aquatic species are adapted to life in water.
2. understand aquatic species' ecology.	2.1 Describe the ecology of aquatic species.
	2.2 Explain food webs in relation to aquatic species.
3. know aquatic species' natural behaviour patterns.	3.1 Describe natural behaviours of aquatic species.
	3.2 Describe aquatic species' social behaviour.
	3.4 Describe aquatic species' reproductive behaviour.
4. understand conservation efforts for aquatic species.	4.1 Analyse conservation efforts to protect aquatic species.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	Aquatic Species Care and Welfare.	35	5	T/618/7847
Learners will gain knowledge of how to care for a range of aquatic species including freshwater, marine and tropical species. The learner will also understand methods of improving aquatic species' welfare.				
Assessment Guidance				
Assessment must include freshwater, marine and tropical aquatic species.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1. understand the principles of how to care for freshwater aquatic species.	1.1 Explain how to effectively care for a range of freshwater aquatic species.
	1.2 Discuss how to set up a freshwater aquatic species' captive environment.
	1.3 Explain how to monitor freshwater aquatic species' captive environments.
	1.4 Explain how to record information from freshwater aquatic species' captive environments.
2. understand the principles of how to care for marine aquatic species.	2.1 Explain how to effectively care for a range of marine aquatic species.
	2.2 Discuss how to set up a marine aquatic species' captive environment.
	2.3 Explain how to monitor marine aquatic species' captive environments.
	2.4 Explain how to record information from marine aquatic species' captive environments.
3. understand the principles of how to care for tropical aquatic species.	3.1 Explain how to effectively care for a range of tropical aquatic species.
	3.2 Discuss how to set up a tropical aquatic species' captive environment.
	3.3 Explain how to monitor tropical aquatic species' captive environments.

	3.4 Explain how to record information from tropical aquatic species' captive environments.
4. know how to improve the welfare of aquatic species.	4.1 Discuss methods to promote the welfare of captive aquatic species.
	4.2 Analyse the importance of correct captive environment set ups for aquatic species.

4.2 GA Level 3 Award in Bird Species Studies (603/7700/8)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	Bird Biology, Ecology, Behaviour and Conservation.	35	5	A/618/7848
Learners will gain an understanding of the principles of bird biology, ecology and behaviour. The learner will also develop an understanding of bird conservation and what conservation efforts are in place to protect birds.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of bird biology.	1.1 Explain the concepts of bird biology.
	1.2 Describe key anatomical features of birds.
	1.3 Explain anatomical features that allow birds to fly.
	1.4 Identify the different groups of birds in relation to anatomical features.
2 know the principles of bird ecology.	2.1 Describe the ecology of birds.
	2.2 Describe food webs in relation to birds.
	2.3 Explain how birds can be used as indicator species.
3 understand natural bird behaviours.	3.1 Describe natural bird behaviours.
	3.2 Explain bird reproductive behaviour.
	3.3 Describe bird social behaviour.
	3.4 Evaluate the migratory behaviour of birds.
4 recognise the different conservation efforts protecting bird species.	4.1 Describe how birds can be classed in relation to their vulnerability to extinction.
	4.2 Analyse conservation efforts to protect bird species.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	Bird Care, Health and Welfare.	40	5	F/618/7849
The learner will understand how to care for different bird species in captivity in addition to gaining knowledge of how to improve captive bird health and welfare. The learner will understand common health concerns in captive bird species and be able to know methods of improving bird health.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of how to care for birds in captivity.	1.1 Explain how to effectively care for a range of bird species.
	1.2 Discuss methods of best practice in relation to caring for captive birds.
	1.3 Discuss suitable nutrition for captive bird species.
	1.4 Discuss suitable housing for captive bird species.
2 know common health concerns of captive bird species.	2.1 List common health concerns in captive bird species.
	2.2 Explain signs of ill health in captive birds.
	2.3 Explain the causes of health concerns in captive bird species.
3 understand methods of improving captive bird health.	3.1 Discuss methods to improve captive bird health through nutrition.
	3.2 Discuss methods to improve captive bird health through appropriate housing.
	3.3 Explain other methods of improving captive bird health.
4 understand methods of improving captive bird welfare.	4.1 Discuss methods to promote captive bird welfare.
	4.2 Explain relevant legislation relating to bird welfare.

4.3 GA Level 3 Award in Carnivore Studies: Big Cats (603/7701/X)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	The Diversity of Carnivores: Big Cats	30	4	T/618/7850
Learners will develop an understanding of how carnivorous big cats evolved and the different biological features of present-day big cats. Learners will also understand natural carnivore behaviours and appreciate the diversity of big cats and other carnivorous species.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 know the evolutionary process of carnivores.	1.1 Define the term carnivore.
	1.2 Explain the concepts of carnivore evolution.
	1.3 Discuss evolutionary processes in relation to carnivore evolution.
	1.4 Explain common ancestors to modern day carnivores.
2 understand the biology of carnivores.	2.1 Describe the biology of carnivores.
	2.2 Describe key anatomical features of carnivores.
3 understand natural carnivore behaviour.	3.1 Discuss natural carnivore behaviour.
	3.2 Explain carnivore reproductive behaviours.
	3.3 Discuss carnivore social behaviours.
	3.4 Evaluate carnivore hunting strategies.
4 understand the diversity of carnivores in the animal kingdom.	4.1 Explain the different carnivore groups.
	4.2 Describe the diversity of carnivores in the animal kingdom.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	The Principles of Carnivore Care and Conservation: Big Cats	40	6	A/618/7851
The learner will understand the principles of captive big cat care and be able to relate captive care practices to carnivore health and welfare. The learner will also understand how conservation efforts are helping to protect big cat species.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of how to care for carnivores.	1.1 Explain the principles of captive carnivore care.
	1.2 Explain the principles of captive carnivore nutrition.
	1.3 Explain the principles of captive carnivore accommodation.
2 know how to improve captive carnivore health.	2.1 Identify common health problems in captive carnivores.
	2.2 Analyse methods to improve captive carnivore health.
3 know how to improve captive carnivore welfare.	3.1 Identify common behavioural problems in captive carnivores.
	3.2 Analyse practices to promote the welfare of captive carnivores.
	3.3 Explain legislation relevant to captive carnivore welfare.
4 understand the principles of carnivore conservation.	4.1 Explain the principles of captive carnivore conservation.
	4.2 Analyse carnivore conservation efforts.

4.4 GA Level 3 Award in Elephant Studies (603/7703/3)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	Elephant Evolution, Biology, Ecology and Behaviour.	40	5	K/618/7862
The learner will understand how modern-day elephants evolved and how they are adapted to their environment through anatomical and behavioural adaptations. The learner will also understand and appreciate the complexities of elephant behaviour.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the concepts of elephant evolution.	1.1 Discuss the evolution of modern-day elephants.
	1.2 Describe the role of mammoths in elephant evolution.
	1.3 Describe key features of African elephants.
	1.4 Describe key features of Asian elephants.
2 understand the principles of elephant biology.	2.1 Explain the concepts of elephant biology.
	2.2 Describe key anatomical features of elephants.
	2.3 Describe how elephants thermoregulate.
	2.4 Explain the biology of elephant development.
3 know the principles of elephant ecology.	3.1 Describe the ecology of African Elephants.
	3.2 Describe the ecology of Asian Elephants.
4 know the principles of elephant behaviour.	4.1 Describe the principles of elephant behaviour.
	4.2 Define the term fission–fusion society.
	4.3 Analyse how elephants communicate.
	4.4 Evaluate the cognitive abilities of elephants.
	4.5 Evaluate elephant self-awareness.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	Elephants in Captivity and Elephant Conservation.	40	5	M/618/7863
The learner will understand the principles of caring for elephants in captivity. The learner will also understand common health and behavioural problems of captive elephants and know ways to improve captive elephant welfare. Knowledge of conservation actions to protect elephants will also be developed.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of keeping elephants in captivity.	1.1 Discuss the principles of captive elephant housing.
	1.2 Explain the principles of captive elephant nutrition.
	1.3 Discuss key points of legislation relevant to elephants in captivity.
2 know common health problems associated with elephants in captivity.	2.1 List signs of good health in captive elephants.
	2.2 List signs of poor health in captive elephants.
	2.3 Explain common health problems of captive elephants.
	2.4 Discuss how common health problems of captive elephants can be treated.
3 know common behavioural problems of elephants in captivity.	3.1 Explain abnormal captive elephant behaviours.
	3.2 Evaluate the ethics of keeping elephants in captivity.
	3.3 Analyse methods to promote elephant welfare in captivity.
4 understand the principles of elephant conservation.	4.1 Discuss conservation methods for elephants in the wild.
	4.2 Discuss conservation methods for elephants in captivity.

4.5 GA Level 3 Award in Farm Animal Studies (603/7708/2)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	Farm Animal Health and Welfare.	45	5	T/618/7864
The learner can understand the principles of farm animal health to include signs of good and poor health in addition to knowing how to conduct routine health checks. The learner will also understand common farm animal diseases and factors that affect farm animal welfare including stress.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of farm animal health.	1.2 Explain signs of good health in farm animals.
	1.3 Explain signs of poor health in farm animals.
	1.4 Discuss the needs of first aid knowledge for farm animals.
2 know how to health check farm animals.	2.1 Explain the principles of conducting a routine health check for different farm animals.
	2.2 Discuss suitable handling techniques for farm animals.
	2.3 Explain when veterinary attention is required to maintain good farm animal health.
3 know common farm animal diseases.	3.1 Describe common diseases in farm animals.
	3.2 Discuss methods of treatment for common diseases.
	3.3 Explain notifiable diseases applicable to farm animals.
	3.4 Explain zoonotic diseases applicable to farm animals.
4 understand farm animal welfare.	4.1 Identify signs of good welfare in farm animals.
	4.2 Identify signs of poor welfare in farm animals.
	4.3 Analyse factors that impact farm animal welfare including the impact of stress.
	4.4 Suggest methods to improve farm animal welfare.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	Farm Animal Welfare Management, Nutrition and Legislation	35	5	A/618/7865
Learners will develop an understanding of farm animal nutrition and farm animal accommodation. Learners will know how nutrition, accommodation and management practices contribute to farm animal welfare. The learners will also understand what legislation is relevant to farm animal welfare.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 know the principles of farm animal nutrition.	1.1 Discuss the nutritional requirements of farm animal species.
	1.2 Explain how to calculate the dietary requirements of farm animal species.
	1.3 Discuss suitable feeds for a range of farm animal species.
	1.4 Explain the presentation of feed including feeding enrichment.
2 know the principles of farm animal accommodation.	2.1 Discuss the accommodation requirements of farm animal species.
	2.2 Evaluate the impact of accommodation on farm animal welfare.
	2.3 Explain the use of environmental enrichment to improve farm animal welfare.
3 understand farm animal management practices.	3.1 Describe the role of the stockperson.
	3.2 Explain how to identify individual farm animals.
	3.3 Explain how records of farm animals are kept.
	3.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of management techniques on farm animal welfare.
4 understand legislation in relation to farm animal welfare.	4.1 Explain relevant farm animal legislation.
	4.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of legislation on farm animal welfare.

4.6 GA Level 3 Award in Primate Studies (603/7710/0)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	Primate Biology, Ecology and Behaviour.	35	5	F/618/7866
Learners will gain an understanding of primate biology, ecology and behaviour. Learners will be able to identify the natural behaviours of primates and how primates naturally interact with their environment and with other species. Learners will also understand the classification system of primate species and the diversity of primate species today.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of primate biology.	1.1 Explain the key concepts of primate biology.
	1.2 Discuss the anatomical features of digestion in primates.
	1.3 Explain how primates thermoregulate.
	1.4 Discuss the biology of primate development.
2 know the principles of primate ecology.	2.1 Describe the ecology of primates.
	2.2 Explain in what ecosystems primates can be found.
	2.3 Discuss primates in relation to food webs.
3 understand key points in primate behaviour.	3.1 Describe the principles of primate behaviour.
	3.2 Explain primate social behaviour.
	3.3 Describe primate parental behaviour.
	3.4 Evaluate the cognitive abilities of primates.
4 understand the diversity of primate species.	4.1 Explain the different classifications of primates.
	4.2 Discuss the different locations in which primates can be found.
	4.3 Evaluate how current locations and classification is related to primate evolution.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	Primate Management, Welfare and Conservation	35	5	J/618/7867
Learners will develop an understanding of how primates are managed in the wild and in the captive environment. Learners will know how to improve captive primate welfare through the provision of suitable enrichment. Learners will also understand the principles of primate conservation.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of how to manage primates in the wild.	1.1 Discuss how habitats are managed for primates.
	1.2 Explain the impact of poaching on primates.
	1.3 Explain management techniques to prevent the poaching of primates.
	1.4 Evaluate the impact of the pet trade on primates.
	1.5 Suggest management techniques to prevent the removal of wild primates for the pet trade.
2 understand the principles of how to manage primates in captivity.	2.1 Explain the principles of captive primate nutrition.
	2.2 Explain the principles of captive primate accommodation.
	2.3 Discuss how primate species can be housed together in captivity.
3 understand how to improve primate welfare in captivity.	3.1 Explain signs of poor welfare in captive primate species.
	3.2 Explain signs of good welfare in captive primate species.
	3.3 Evaluate techniques to improve captive primate species' welfare.
	3.4 Explain legislation relating to primate welfare.
4 know the principles of primate conservation.	4.1 Discuss conservation methods for primates.
	4.2 Analyse methods of primate conservation with consideration of primate welfare.

4.7 GA Level 3 Award in Reptile Studies (603/7711/2)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	Reptile Biology, Behaviour and Conservation.	40	5	L/618/7868
The learner will understand the key concepts of reptile biology and behaviour. The learner will also develop an understanding of different conservation methods to protect reptile species.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the biology of reptiles.	1.1 Define the term ectotherm.
	1.2 Describe anatomical features of thermoregulation in reptiles.
	1.3 Identify key anatomical features of reptiles.
	1.4 Describe how reptiles reproduce.
	1.5 Describe the process of digestion in reptiles.
2 understand the principles of reptile behaviour.	2.1 Describe normal reptile behaviours.
	2.2 Discuss reptile feeding behaviours.
	2.3 Discuss reptile breeding behaviours.
	2.4 Describe reptile thermoregulatory behaviours.
3 know in-situ conservation efforts for reptile species.	3.1 Define the term in-situ conservation.
	3.2 Describe in-situ conservation efforts to protect reptiles.
	3.3 Evaluate the advantages of in-situ conservation efforts for reptiles.

	3.4 Evaluate the disadvantages of in-situ conservation efforts for reptiles.
4 know ex-situ conservation efforts for reptile species.	4.1 Define the term ex-situ conservation.
	4.2 Describe ex-situ conservation efforts to protect reptiles.
	4.3 Evaluate the advantages of ex-situ conservation efforts for reptiles.
	4.4 Evaluate the disadvantages of ex-situ conservation efforts for reptiles.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	Reptile Care and Welfare.	40	5	R/618/7869
The learner will understand how to appropriately care for captive reptile species. The learner will know signs of poor health and poor welfare as well as the signs of good health and good welfare in reptiles. The learner will be able to advise on methods to improve captive reptile welfare.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of how to care for reptiles.	1.1 Explain how to effectively care for a range of reptiles.
	1.2 Discuss suitable accommodation for captive reptiles.
	1.3 Discuss suitable nutrition for captive reptiles.
	1.4 Discuss suitable forms of enrichment for captive reptiles.
2 understand the principles of reptile health.	2.1 Discuss signs of good health in reptiles.
	2.2 Discuss signs of poor health in reptiles.
	2.3 Explain common reptile diseases.
	2.4 Explain the effects of stress on reptile health.
3 understand the signs of poor reptile welfare.	3.1 Discuss signs of poor welfare in reptiles.
	3.2 Discuss signs of good welfare in reptiles.
	3.3 Explain the effects of stress on reptile welfare.

4 know how to improve captive reptile welfare.	4.1 Discuss methods of environmental enrichment suitable for captive reptiles.
	4.2 Describe how a reptile's natural history should influence the captive environment.
	4.3 Evaluate methods to improve captive reptile welfare.
	4.4 Analyse the impact of unsuitable care on reptile welfare.
	4.5 Evaluate the effectiveness of legislation relating to reptile care and welfare.

4.8 GA Level 3 Award in Zoo Animal Nutrition (603/7723/9)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	The Principles of Zoo Animal Nutrition	25	3	R/618/7922
Learners will develop an understanding of the history of zoo animal nutrition and how it compares to present day zoo animal nutrition. Learners will investigate the future of zoo animal nutrition. An understanding of the different nutrient groups as well the process of digestion in zoo animals will also be developed.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the history of zoo animal nutrition.	1.1 Describe the history of zoo animal nutrition.
	1.2 Describe the similarities of past zoo animal nutrition with livestock nutrition.
	1.3 Analyse the problems with historic zoo animal nutrition.
2 understand the progress of zoo animal nutrition.	2.1 Describe the progress of zoo animal nutrition.
	2.2 Outline the benefits of current zoo animal nutrition.
	2.3 Outline the problems of current zoo animal nutrition.
	2.4 Analyse how zoo animal nutrition may progress in the future.
3 know the different nutrient groups.	3.1 Describe the different nutrient groups.
	3.2 Explain the functions of the different nutrients within the body.
	3.3 Describe how an excess of nutrients can affect zoo animals.
	3.4 Describe how a lack of nutrients affects zoo animals.
4 understand the process of digestion in different zoo animal species.	4.1 Explain the process of digestion.
	4.2 Explain how nutrients are digested within the body.
	4.3 Identify differences in digestion between species.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	The Nutrition of Herbivores, Omnivores and Carnivores in Zoos	25	3	Y/618/7923
Learners will understand the differences between the digestive anatomical features of herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. Learners will also gain an understanding of suitable nutrition for herbivores, omnivores and carnivores in zoos.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 know the main differences in digestive anatomies of zoo species.	1.1 Define the term monogastric.
	1.2 Define the term foregut fermenter.
	1.3 Define the term hindgut fermenter.
	1.4 Describe the digestive anatomy of herbivores.
	1.5 Describe the digestive anatomy of omnivores.
	1.6 Describe the digestive anatomy of carnivores.
2 understand suitable nutrition for herbivores in zoos.	2.1 Explain suitable nutrition for herbivores in zoos.
3 understand suitable nutrition for omnivores in zoos.	3.1 Explain suitable nutrition for omnivores in zoos
4 understand suitable nutrition for carnivores in zoos.	4.1 Explain suitable nutrition for carnivores in zoos.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
3	Zoo Animal Nutritional Health and Welfare	25	3	D/618/7924
Learners will appreciate the importance of zoo animal nutrition in relation to zoo animal health and welfare. An understanding of common nutritional diseases will be developed along with an understanding of how to promote zoo animal welfare through different feeding practices.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 know common nutritional diseases of zoo animals.	1.1 Describe common nutritional diseases in herbivores.
	1.2 Describe common nutritional diseases in omnivores.
	1.3 Describe common nutritional diseases in carnivores.
	1.4 Describe the signs and symptoms of nutritional diseases.
2 understand the impact of nutrition on zoo animal health.	2.1 Analyse the effects of nutrition on zoo animal health.
3 understand how nutrition has a direct impact on zoo animal welfare.	3.1 Define the term stereotypical behaviour.
	3.2 Evaluate the impact of nutrition on zoo animal welfare.
	3.3 Analyse the ethics of live feeding.
4 recognise how to use feeding enrichment to promote zoo animal welfare.	4.1 Explain how to replicate natural feeding.
	4.2 Describe how to create feeding enrichment for herbivores.
	4.3 Describe how to create feeding enrichment for omnivores.
	4.4 Describe how to create feeding enrichment for carnivores.

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
4	Zoo Animal Feeding Solutions and Legislation	25	3	H/618/7925
The learner will understand the principles of feeding solutions for animals in zoos to include food storage, preparation and presentation. Learners will know how to calculate dietary requirements and create feeding plans. The learner will also know how to keep nutritional records and comply with relevant legislation.				
Assessment Guidance				
No additional assessment guidance is available for this unit.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will be able to	The learner can
1 understand the principles of zoo animal feeding solutions.	1.1 Describe best practices in zoo animal food preparation.
	1.2 Explain methods to reduce food contamination.
	1.3 Describe suitable methods of pest control.
	1.4 Explain suitable methods of food presentation.
2 know how to create feeding plans for zoo animals.	2.1 Explain how to calculate dietary requirements.
	2.2 Explain the principles of feeding plans.
	2.3 Describe how feeding plans can meet the needs of zoo animals at different development stages.
3 understand how to keep nutritional records.	3.1 Describe how to effectively keep nutritional records.
4 know zoo animal nutrition-related legislation.	4.1 Analyse the importance of legislation in relation to zoo animal nutrition.
	4.2 Analyse the importance of zoo governing bodies in relation to zoo animal nutrition.

4.9 GA Level 3 Award in Birds of Prey Studies (610/0139/9)

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
1	Birds of Prey Species, Biology and Habitat	40	5	D/650/0656
The learner will develop an understanding of different birds of prey commonly found in the wild and in captivity in the UK, and the biology of birds of prey. Learners will also develop an understanding of the habitats of, and the threats facing, birds of prey in the UK.				
Assessment Guidance				
Assessment must include consideration of both birds of prey native to the UK and non-native birds of prey kept in captivity in the UK.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will	The learner can
1. understand different birds of prey commonly found in the wild and in captivity in the UK	1.1 Explain the different species of birds of prey found in the UK
	1.2 Describe the classification of birds of prey
	1.3 Describe the uses of birds of prey in the UK
2. understand the habitats of and threats facing UK birds of prey	2.1 Outline the legislation relevant to the governance and care of birds of prey
	2.2 Describe organisations involved in the governance and care of birds of prey
	2.3 Explain the threats that birds of prey face in the UK
	2.4 Explain the history of keeping birds of prey in captivity, with specific reference to falconry
	2.5 Describe the habitats of birds of prey in the UK
3. understand the biology of birds of prey	3.1 Explain the basic biology of birds of prey
	3.2 Describe the structure of feathers
	3.3 Describe the problems which may occur with a bird's feathers
	3.4 Explain how birds of prey maintain flight

Mandatory Unit		GLH	Credits	Unit Reference
2	Birds of Prey Care, Health and Welfare	40	5	F/650/0657
Learners will gain knowledge of birds of prey health care, common diseases and welfare needs, as well as the nutritional requirements of birds of prey. The learner will also understand situations where birds of prey may need emergency care and the principles behind planning for such care, as well as understanding the rehabilitation and re-release processes for birds of prey.				
Assessment Guidance				
Assessment must include consideration of both birds of prey native to the UK and non-native birds of prey kept in captivity in the UK.				

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will	The learner can
1. understand health care, common diseases and the welfare needs of birds of prey	1.1 Describe how to carry out a health check on a range of birds of prey
	1.2 Explain diseases commonly found in birds of prey
	1.3 Explain preventative health care for birds of prey
	1.4 Describe appropriate and non-appropriate situations for handling birds of prey
	1.5 Describe the equipment required to care for a bird of prey
	1.6 Describe how to provide enrichment for birds of prey in captivity to improve their welfare
2. understand the nutritional requirements of birds of prey	2.1 Explain how to calculate feed for birds of prey
	2.2 Describe the importance of weighing birds and weight management
	2.3 Explain the ways in which a poor diet can impact on the health of birds of prey
	2.4 Explain how to prepare and provide food for bird of prey
3. understand the situations when birds of prey may need emergency care and	3.1 Describe injuries that commonly occur in birds of prey
	3.2 Explain the contents of a basic first aid kit for keeping birds of prey

the principles of how to plan for emergency care	3.3 Describe how to provide emergency first aid to birds of prey
	3.4 Outline situations where veterinary professionals must be contacted
4. understand rehabilitation and re-release processes for birds of prey	4.1 Describe how to rehabilitate birds of prey in a range of situations
	4.2 Explain release methods and the considerations which must be made when preparing to release birds of prey
	4.3 Explain the legislation relevant to the rehabilitation and release of birds of prey
	4.4 Explain the ethics of the rehabilitation and release of birds of prey
	4.5 Describe situations where rehabilitation and release are not appropriate courses of action

Appendix 1: Internal Moderation and Quality Assurance Regulations and Guidance

3.1 Introduction to Internal Moderation

Internal Moderation is a centre's internal system that ensures learner evidence is complete and genuinely meets all the required criteria by which the learner is judged to have met in order to be awarded a qualification. The process involves regularly sampling and evaluating the centre's assessment practices and decisions, and it is the Internal Moderator's responsibility to act on their findings to ensure consistency and fairness.

Ensuring quality standards are maintained and are consistent within and across a centre's provision is the responsibility of the head of centre, who must ensure that suitable staff are in place to act as Internal Moderator(s) and provide full support and standards scrutiny of the centre's Assessment decisions.

3.2 Internal Moderation Processes

Internal Moderation involves three key processes: co-ordination of the assessment process, standardisation of assessment practice, and sampling of assessed work.

These processes are conducted by one Internal Moderator or, if there is more than one, a team of Internal Moderators who are under the direction of a Lead Internal Moderator.

Information about the experience and qualification requirements for Internal Moderators is provided in the *Qualification Specification*.

3.3. Co-ordination of the Assessment Process

Prior to delivery commencing, it is the Internal Moderator who will confirm that assessment tasks are appropriate. This may involve checking that proposed assessment activities, plans for practical assessments, or the briefs of any assignments or reports are fit for purpose. It may also include checking that internal tests or examination materials are fit for purpose.

In order to ensure that the planned assessment activities and materials are fit for purpose, the Internal Moderator will consider and judge whether the activities and materials provide inclusive opportunities for all learners to meet the assessment objectives and generate evidence which is current, reliable, authentic, valid, able to be evaluated and sufficient to meet the requirements of the qualification.

During delivery of assessment, Internal Moderators will work with the Assessment team, ensuring that assessment practices are being carried out correctly. This may involve observing assessment taking place.

3.4 Standardisation of Assessment

The standardisation process helps to ensure that all centre staff involved in the delivery, assessment and quality assurance are consistent and fair to all learners and interpret and follow the requirements of the qualification in the same way.

Internal Moderators are expected to ensure high levels of consistency across Assessors and centre delivery sites through sharing good practice and providing feedback and support, doing so accurately and in good time. The internal Moderator may highlight areas for further CPD or additional training as necessary.

3.5. Sampling Process

When planning and carrying out internal moderation activities, it is important that the Internal Moderator works to a sound sampling strategy to ensure that standardisation of assessment decisions can take place.

A centre's sampling strategy involves reviewing the quality of Assessor's judgements, which will include reviewing learner work.

The learner work may be sampled before the learner has completed the full qualification, for example by sampling one or two assignments, topic areas or units, as the learner completes them.

The Internal Moderator should check that planning and reviewing has taken place and feedback is given to learners by the Assessor. The Internal Moderator will also check and confirm the accuracy of the application of any mark schemes, guidance and overall assessment decisions.

The Internal Moderator will therefore be able to evaluate the quality and consistency of the Assessor's assessment decisions and be able to identify any problems at an early stage. It will highlight individual Assessor training and development needs, which in turn can inform the programme of CPD for the assessment team as a whole.

The Internal Moderator must plan their sampling activities as outlined below.

3.6 Establishing a Sampling Strategy

Sampling should enable the Internal Moderator to evaluate how Assessors have reached their decisions. They must be able to follow documentation which clearly shows that Assessors have checked that the evidence presented meets the rules of evidence.

Evidence must be confirmed by Assessors as '**CRAVES**'

- **Current:** the work is relevant at the time of the assessment
- **Reliable:** the work is consistent with that produced by other learners
- **Authentic:** the work is the learner's own work
- **Valid:** the work is relevant and appropriate to the subject being assessed and is at the required level
- **Evaluated:** where the learner has not been assessed as competent, the deficiencies have been clearly and accurately identified via feedback to the learner resulting in improvements in knowledge or competency leading to the award
- **Sufficient:** the work covers the expected learning outcomes and any range statements as specified in the criteria or requirements in the assessment strategy.

3.7 Planning Sampling Activities

The Internal Moderator should consider the following when considering the volume of work that they should sample:

- the learners' ethnic origin, age and gender to ensure a representative range of learners are sampled
- the Assessors' experience and qualifications, workload and their occupational competence. For example, if Assessors are qualified and experienced it may not be necessary to look at everything in a learner's portfolio. If Assessors have less than 12 months' experience, are new to the centre or a particular qualification, or perhaps have not assessed for a length of time, the Internal Moderator will need to sample substantially more of their decisions for the first 6 - 12 months
- the full range of assessment methods used for any one qualification, for example observation, witness testimony, professional discussion, reflective accounts, questioning, assignments, products, RPL, simulation, etc and ensure a good, representative range of assessment evidence is sampled
- previous feedback to Assessors regarding good practice and/or involved highlighting development needs, for example If the Internal Moderator has a particular concern regarding the assessment decisions of a particular Assessor they should focus on increasing the volume of work from that Assessor to continue increased monitoring and evaluation of risk
- whether any changes have been implemented relating to the assessment of the qualification or its units, for example if there have been amendments to the qualification specification, or instances where industry practice or legislation has changed
- the range of locations where assessments have taken place
- the sampling process must not be determined by any rule of thumb such as '10%.'

3.8 Producing a Sampling Plan

The Internal Moderator must develop a sampling plan at the beginning of the learner's (or cohort's) programme and record, on the plan, which topic areas/assessment methods they plan to sample, and when.

Copies of sampling plans should be made available to other Internal Moderators and the assessment team, and sampling carried out according to the plan.

Where variations are made, these should be recorded on the plan.

3.9 Completing a Sample Record

The Internal Moderator should record the quality assurance sampling activities on a Sample Record. As a minimum, this record must indicate the Assessor's decision, the content of the sample, the Internal Moderator's decision and relevant feedback to the Assessor.

Where the Internal Moderator agrees with the assessment decisions, certification claims can go ahead.

Where the Internal Moderator does not agree with the assessment decisions, full feedback must be given to the Assessor, with action points agreed which relate to the Assessor's areas for improvement and instructions for how the learner can be supported to produce the required evidence of knowledge and skills.

Sampling must take place before any certification claims are made by the centre and all records, including those of standardisation meetings, feedback to Assessors and CPD activity should be made available to the GA-appointed External Moderator (also referred to as the EQA) upon request.

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