



Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies

Career Progression in Animal Health and Welfare

Higher Diploma to Employment with Training

A career in Animal Care

Example – Dog Groomer (Animal Groomer)

Dog groomers look after the conditions of dogs' coats by shampooing, clipping, trimming and grooming them. They may also check the animals' skin, eyes, ears, mouth, nose, feet and nails for any problems.

The job is interesting and varied and requires a wide range of different skills.

These include:

- being knowledgeable about the care of animals
- having the ability to handle animals firmly but gently
- being confident in handling any size of animal
- having a good awareness of health and safety issues
- excellent communication skills
- being able to work well alone and as part of a team.

Dog groomers are employed by pet shops, specialist grooming businesses, show dog kennels and some veterinary practices throughout the UK. The demand for groomers is increasing as more people have pets and there is a growing awareness about responsible pet ownership. Many dog groomers are self employed.

For information on the skills gaps and shortages of the current workforce and factsheets on individual industries within the environmental and land-based sector, including animal care please visit: www.lantra.co.uk/skills-assessment

Although there are no set academic requirements for entry into this particular job role the Higher Diploma would equip students with real skills and knowledge with which to begin their employment. There are also other job roles within the animal care industry and information on these can be found at <http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/> and www.afuturein.com

Why choose the Higher Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies for entry into a Career in Animal Care?

What makes the Diploma different from the traditional GCSE route it is not a classroom based course. Students get out and about and learn from different employer businesses/organisations who understand what the next workforce generation needs to know. Consequently students take up to date, real world knowledge directly into the workplace.

This is achieved through employers being actively involved with the Diploma in a number of different ways, for example:

- Work Shadowing
- Industry Days
- Visits
- Mentoring
- Questions and Answers Sessions
- Work Experience.

For further information on Employer Engagement in the Diploma visit – <http://www.diplomaelbs.org.uk/welcome/consortia/downloads-and-resources/>

What does the Diploma actually consist of and how is it different?

The Higher Diploma is equivalent to 7 GCSEs (grades A*-C). You can also study additional GCSEs alongside the Higher Diploma.

There are **three** elements to the diploma:

- principal learning
- generic learning
- additional and specialist learning.

Principal Learning

Principal learning is a free standing qualification relating to the environmental and land-based sector. It focuses on developing relevant knowledge, understanding and skills and applying them to work-based situations.

Therefore students would look at:

- exploring the productive and working environment – how we manage the environment in the modern world
- plants and animals – the role plants and animals in today's society covering subjects including nutrition, care, welfare and breeding
- developing the sustainable environment – the impact of people and business on the environment and debating current environmental issues

Generic Learning

Consists of:

- functional skills in English, ICT and mathematics
- personal, learning and thinking skills
- a project
- work experience – a minimum of 10 days related work-based activities.

A Project

A student interested in a career in animal care such as a dog groomer would perhaps choose a project related to 'welfare considerations for domestic animals' or 'the essentials of animal care'.

In order to meet project objectives students need to:

- manage the project
- use resources/undertake research as appropriate to the topic
- develop realise the project to achieve the planned outcome
- review the project outcomes including own learning and performance.

Students need to show they can plan, deliver and present a piece of work.

Work Experience

There are numerous opportunities for work experience in the animal care industry. This could include working in animal grooming businesses, animal breeding establishments or kennels.

For a career in animal care enthusiasm and an interest in working with animals is really important. Work experience along with any voluntary experience would also be extremely valuable and is looked on favourably by employers.

Additional and Specialist Learning (ASL)

Additional and specialist learning adds breadth and/or depth to the learning experience. A student's choice of ASL enables them to personalise their programme to include studies which interest them and support their career ambitions. An example of this could be a Level 3 Certificate in Small Animal Care, or a Level 2 BTEC First Certificate in Animal Care.

For further information on the qualifications within the diploma please visit <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/DiplomaCatalogueSelection.aspx>

Further Progression

Once employed there are opportunities for further study such as an Award, Certificate or Diploma in Work based Animal Care at levels 2 & 3 or a level 3 Certificate in Introductory Dog Grooming.

With further training and qualifications there may also be opportunities to progress in this career to senior groomer, supervisor or manager

For a list of current qualifications visit the national database of accredited qualifications (NDAQ), <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk>

It may also be possible to enter this career through an appropriate apprenticeship programme. Apprenticeships provide structured training with an employer and combine practical and theoretical skills designed to help employees reach a high level of competency and performance. For information on apprenticeships visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Diploma progression illustrations can be found on the QCDA website: www.qcda.gov.uk/25715.aspx

More information on the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies can be found at www.diplomaelbs.org.uk