

Unit 301 Task B
Assess the Health of Animals
Learner Guide

What Is This Task About?

In this task you will carry out practical health checks on animals and identify signs of good and poor health.

You will be assessed on:

- safe working
- animal handling
- practical health checking skills
- accurate observations
- recording findings correctly

This is a practical assessment.

What You Need To Do

You will carry out health checks on animals selected by your assessor.

You must:

- approach the animal safely
- handle and restrain correctly
- minimise stress to the animal
- carry out health checks safely and accurately
- record your findings

Before You Start

You Should:

- wear suitable PPE
- wash hands before and after handling
- prepare equipment before beginning
- stay calm and work quietly around the animal

Equipment You May Need

Depending on the species, you may use:

- thermometer
- stethoscope
- watch/timer
- gloves
- scales
- grooming equipment
- record sheets

Health Checks You May Carry Out

Temperature

Take and record the animal's temperature where appropriate.

You should know:

- normal temperature ranges
- signs of fever or low temperature

Pulse

Check pulse or heart rate.

You should:

- count correctly
- record findings accurately
- know normal ranges for the species

Respiration Rate

Observe breathing rate and breathing effort.

Look for:

- calm breathing
- fast or slow breathing
- abnormal breathing sounds

Eyes, Nose and Ears

Check for:

- discharge
- redness
- swelling
- parasites
- injuries

Healthy animals should generally have:

- bright eyes
- clean ears
- clear nostrils

Mouth and Teeth

Check:

- teeth condition
- gum colour
- smell
- injuries
- eating ability

Skin, Coat or Feathers

Look for:

- parasites
- wounds
- hair loss
- dryness
- poor coat condition

Healthy animals usually have:

- clean skin
- healthy coat or feathers
- no irritation

Feet, Claws or Hooves

Check for:

- overgrowth
- injury
- swelling
- heat
- signs of pain

Behaviour and Body Condition

Observe:

- alertness
- posture
- movement
- appetite
- body condition

You should identify:

- signs of good health
- possible signs of illness or discomfort

Recording Your Findings

You must complete records clearly and accurately.

Include:

- animal details
- date
- findings from each check
- any abnormalities observed
- actions taken if needed

Use professional language where possible.

Health and Safety

During the assessment you must:

- work safely
- use correct restraint methods
- avoid causing stress or injury
- maintain hygiene
- follow instructions from staff

Animal welfare must always be your priority.

How To Achieve A Good Result

To Pass

You must:

- complete checks safely
- handle animals correctly
- identify basic signs of health and illness
- complete records appropriately

Tips For Success

- Stay calm and organised
- Prepare equipment before starting
- Speak quietly around animals
- Do not rush
- Double check your recordings
- Ask if unsure about instructions
- Always prioritise welfare and safety

Common Mistakes To Avoid

- Forgetting PPE
- Incorrect restraint
- Rushing checks
- Recording incomplete information
- Not observing behaviour carefully
- Causing unnecessary stress to the animal

Final Checklist

Before finishing, make sure you have:

- completed all required checks
- recorded findings clearly
- worked safely
- cleaned equipment if needed
- followed welfare procedures
- completed all paperwork properly

301 TASK B GUIDE

Here is an example of a health check form for a horse:

301 Task B Assess the health of animals

Health Check

NAME OF HORSE:

DATE OF BIRTH:

PASSPORT NUMBER:

HEIGHT:

Type Of Check	DATE:	DATE:	DATE:	DATE:
WEIGHT				
TEMPERATURE				
PULSE RATE				
RESPIRATORY RATE				
HOOF TEMP				
APETITE				
WATER INTAKE				
DROPPINGS				
URINE				
DEMENOUR				
SKIN				
COAT				
EYES				
NOSE				
MOVEMENT/ STANCE				