

Unit 301 Task C

Report on Animal Diseases and Disorders

Learner Guide

What Is This Task About?

In this task you will produce a report about **animal diseases and disorders** and explain how they affect animal health and welfare.

You will also explain:

- how diseases spread
- how the immune system helps fight disease
- how diseases are prevented and treated.

Your report must include:

- **one zoonotic disease**
- **one notifiable disease**

This is a **written assignment**.

What You Need To Do

Your report must include:

- ✓ The role of pathogens in causing disease.
- ✓ How the immune system protects animals.
- ✓ One **zoonotic disease** (can spread between animals and people).
- ✓ One **notifiable disease** (must be reported by law).
- ✓ Routes of transmission.
- ✓ Signs and symptoms.
- ✓ Effects on animal health and welfare.
- ✓ Prevention methods.
- ✓ Treatment methods.

Before You Start

You should understand:

- bacteria
- viruses
- fungi
- protozoa
- parasites
- prions
- the immune system
- vaccination
- biosecurity
- hygiene

Research from reliable sources such as:

- DEFRA
- APHA
- RSPCA
- Veterinary practices
- Scientific textbooks

Understanding Pathogens

Pathogens are organisms or agents that cause disease.

Examples include:

Bacteria

- Salmonella
- Leptospira

Viruses

- Rabies
- Foot and Mouth Disease

Fungi

- Ringworm

Protozoa

- Coccidia

Prions

- BSE

Understanding the Immune System

Explain:

- what the immune system does
- white blood cells
- antibodies
- inflammation
- immune memory
- vaccination

Remember to explain **how the immune system responds after a pathogen enters the body.**

Choosing Your Diseases

You need:

One Zoonotic Disease

Examples:

- Leptospirosis
- Salmonella
- Ringworm
- Rabies

One Notifiable Disease

Examples:

- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Avian Influenza
- Rabies
- Bovine TB (where appropriate)

Choose diseases that give you plenty to explain.

Suggested Report Structure

Introduction

Briefly explain:

- what pathogens are
- why disease control is important
- why good health management matters.

Disease One

Include:

Cause

What pathogen causes it?

Transmission

How does it spread?

Signs and Symptoms

What would you observe?

Effects on Health and Welfare

How does it affect the animal?

Immune Response

How does the body respond?

Prevention

How can it be prevented?

Treatment

How is it treated or controlled?

Disease Two

Repeat the same headings.

Conclusion

Summarise:

- why disease prevention is important
- why early diagnosis matters
- why biosecurity protects animals.

Adding Images

Your report will look much more professional if you include:

- ✓ photographs
- ✓ diagrams
- ✓ life cycles
- ✓ transmission diagrams
- ✓ immune system diagrams

Remember to label all images.

Health and Welfare

Always explain:

- pain
- suffering
- stress
- reduced quality of life
- impact on behaviour
- impact on feeding
- impact on movement
- risk to other animals

Prevention Methods

You could include:

- vaccination
- quarantine
- hygiene
- disinfecting equipment
- parasite control
- good nutrition
- regular health checks
- biosecurity
- isolation of infected animals

Treatment Methods

Depending on the disease this may include:

- antibiotics
- antifungal medication
- antiparasitic treatment
- supportive nursing care
- fluid therapy
- surgery
- euthanasia (where appropriate)
- veterinary treatment

How To Achieve A Good Result

Pass

You must:

- describe one zoonotic disease
- describe one notifiable disease
- explain transmission
- explain symptoms
- explain effects on welfare
- explain how the immune system responds
- explain prevention
- explain treatment

Merit

To achieve Merit:

- explain each section clearly
- use correct scientific terminology
- provide accurate detail
- make clear links between disease and welfare

Distinction

To achieve Distinction:

- explain everything in depth
- evaluate the wider impact on animal health and welfare
- compare different prevention methods
- justify treatment choices where appropriate
- demonstrate detailed scientific understanding