

Handling Small Mammals

Student's Notes

Content

This unit will help you to understand how a range of small mammals should be handled.

You will consider what is happening in the animal's mind, which causes it to behave in a certain way (psychology).

And you will think about 'Risk assessment' and the dangers involved.

To get the most out of this session you could read the 'questions to answer' section, that goes with the film clip you are about to watch. Then use the film clip to help you get the answers. Before moving on to the next clip complete the 'Tasks to do'.

The Aim of this session is . . .

To establish the industry accepted methods for handling a range of small mammals.

Objectives – By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Interpret relevant aspects of animal psychology.
- Recognise the appropriate preparatory actions.
- Describe the most appropriate method for handling a range of species.



Introduction		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
<p>Watch the film clip: Animal Psychology</p>	<p>How do small mammals perceive humans? How do small mammals respond to humans?</p>	<p>Research predator/prey interactions.</p> <p>Most small mammals would normally or naturally encounter stress from predators during their lifetime. Does this mean that we should not be concerned if they become stressed whilst being handled? Justify your opinions.</p> <p>Identify dangers to the handler as a result of this animal's psychology.</p>



Watch the film clip: Preparation of Enclosure	What should you do to the enclosure before handling?	Compile a step by step schedule of actions. Justify your schedule.
Watch the film clip: Health and safety	What are the Health and Safety considerations that must be taken in preparation for handling?	Why is the Health and Safety Act 1974 relevant?
Watch the film clip: Attack / Bite	What happens when a stressed animal attacks? What is the correct course of action in the event of being bitten?	Decide why it is so important to remain calm? Compile a step by step schedule of actions. Justify your schedule.

Mouse		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
Watch the film clip: Mouse handling	Which are the more robust areas?	Explain which are the robust areas of the body that can be handled.
	Which are the more vulnerable areas?	Explain which are the more vulnerable areas of the body that must not be handled.
	What is the basic method of handling?	Describe the basic method of handling, and its purpose.
	What is the more complex method of handling?	Describe the more complex technique for handling, and its purpose and advantages.
	What is the safe return procedure?	Describe the safe return procedure.
<p>An Interactive task is included in this package –</p> <p>You are required to complete a risk assessment, associated with the task of handling this animal. A 'calculator' will indicate the overall level of risk. Complete the interactive risk assessment task via the link provided.</p>		



Rat		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
Watch the film clip: Rat handling	Which are the more robust areas?	Explain which are the robust areas of the body that can be handled.
	Which are the more vulnerable areas?	Explain which are the more vulnerable areas of the body that must not be handled.
	What is the basic method of handling?	Describe the basic method of handling, and its purpose.
	What is the method of handling used for an aggressive rat?	Describe the technique for handling an aggressive rat, and its purpose, advantages and disadvantages.
	What is the safe return procedure?	Describe the safe return procedure.
<p>An Interactive task is included in this package –</p> <p>You are required to complete a risk assessment, associated with the task of handling this animal. A 'calculator' will indicate the overall level of risk. Complete the interactive risk assessment task via the link provided.</p>		



Hamster		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
Watch the film clip: Hamster handling	Which are the more robust areas?	Explain which are the robust areas of the body that can be handled.
	Which are the more vulnerable areas?	Explain which are the more vulnerable areas of the body that must not be handled.
	How good is a hamster's ability to perceive height?	Describe what considerations must be taken in order to protect the hamster?
	What is the basic method of handling?	Describe the basic method of handling, and its purpose.
	What is the more complex method of handling used for an aggressive hamster?	Describe the more complex technique for handling an aggressive hamster, and its purpose and advantages.
	What is the safe return procedure?	Describe the safe return procedure.
<p>An Interactive task is included in this package –</p> <p>You are required to complete a risk assessment, associated with the task of handling this animal. A 'calculator' will indicate the overall level of risk. Complete the interactive risk assessment task via the link provided.</p>		



Gerbil		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
Watch the film clip: Gerbil handling	Which are the more robust areas?	Explain which are the robust areas of the body that can be handled.
	Which are the more vulnerable areas?	Explain which are the more vulnerable areas of the body that must not be handled.
	What is specific about a gerbil's tail?	Describe why a gerbil will readily shed its tail – what is the scientific name for this process?
	What is the basic method of handling?	Describe the basic method of handling, and its purpose.
	Is it usual to encounter an aggressive gerbil?	Describe how gerbils usually respond to a threat?
	What is the safe return procedure?	Describe the safe return procedure.
<p>An Interactive task is included in this package –</p> <p>You are required to complete a risk assessment, associated with the task of handling this animal. A 'calculator' will indicate the overall level of risk. Complete the interactive risk assessment task via the link provided.</p>		

