

## Accommodation of Companion Animals

### Student's Notes

This unit will help you to understand what are the housing requirements of some common companion animals.

It will include some information about the animal's physical requirements (Physiology); the animal's mental requirements (Psychology); and also about transporting animals.

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; and before moving on to the next clip complete the 'Tasks to do'.

### The Aim of this session is . . .

To establish the advantages and disadvantages of housing companion animals in different ways and for different purposes, such as transport.

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

- Identify advantages and disadvantages of different types of housing.
- Establish which would be most suitable for various species.
- Establish which would best meet the needs for transporting animals.
- Give a recommendation as to which accommodation would best meet animal's needs.
- Justify your opinions.



<b>Introduction</b>		
<b>Film Clip</b>	<b>Questions to answer (whilst watching)</b>	<b>Tasks to do (after watching)</b>
Watch the film clip: Animal Physiology	Why must we consider an animal's physiology? What groups of Pathogens and Vermin pose a threat? What range of equipment can be used to thoroughly clean an enclosure? What cleaning agent(s) are commonly used?	Think about what disease-causing agents are most relevant to different species. Inspect an existing establishment, and identify any risk areas/factors. Form a plan that will ensure vermin and infection is kept to a minimum.
Watch the film clip: Animal Psychology_1	Why is mental health important? What psychological state will an inappropriate environment lead to? What sorts of behaviour will stress cause? What is the link between stress and an animal's natural environment and natural behaviour?	Explain what 'Environmental Enrichment' means. Research some symptoms of stress, what behaviour patterns show that an animal is suffering from stress. Explain why providing a natural environment allows an animal to display natural behaviour; and how this reduces stress.



<p>Watch the film clip: Animal Psychology_2</p>	<p>What is the legal responsibility of anyone keeping animals? How does this relate to the Animal Welfare Act 2006? How does this relate to the RSPCA's 5 animal freedoms? In particular the 'freedom to express normal or natural behaviour'?</p>	
<p>Watch the film clip: Enrichment</p>	<p>Think about: A well-prepared and suitable environment is said to be Enriched. An environment can be enriched by making sure that all the correct equipment and bedding is present – what effect would this have on animal behaviour? How might enrichment differ for predators / prey species?</p>	<p>Design, and if possible build and implement a puzzle or task that would enrich an animals environment for: -A predator -A prey animal Watch how the animal then interacts with this new object.</p>



<b>Enclosure options</b>		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
Watch the film clip: Hutch	What makes this enclosure suitable for companion animals?  Think about shelter, potential predators, and stress.	Design an enclosure suitable for a companion animal.  Fully justify your decisions.
Watch the film clip: Large enclosure	What makes this enclosure appropriate?  What bedding substrates can be used? What behaviour does this allow?  What are the disadvantages?  Consider risk of escaping.	
Watch the film clip: Outdoor Run	What are the advantages of using this enclosure?  Think about: Ventilation, natural weather, behaviour & exercise.  What are the disadvantages?  Think about: Vermin, disease, escape.	



<b><i>Transporting Animals</i></b>		
Film Clip	Questions to answer (whilst watching)	Tasks to do (after watching)
Watch the film clip: Transporting animals	What would be common reasons for choosing to transport animals?	Draw up a list of other reasons why it might be necessary to transport animals?  Investigate the legal requirements & guidelines associated with transporting animals.
Watch the film clip: Cardboard box	Is this an acceptable container for transporting companion animals?  What are the advantages of this container?  What are the disadvantages of this container?	Discuss the pros and cons of each carrier, draw up a list and decide which one you would use for a given species.
Watch the film clip: Plastic tank	Is this an acceptable container for transporting companion animals?  What are the advantages of this container?  What are the disadvantages of this container?	
Watch the film clip: Pet Carrier	Is this an acceptable container for transporting companion animals?  What are the advantages of this container?  What are the disadvantages of this container?	

