

## 2.9 Animal Health

Zoos have an ethical and legal obligation to manage the health of animals in their care. Diagnosis and treatment of health problems should always be led by a qualified veterinarian, however zookeepers also have an important role to play in ensuring the health of zoo animals. Much of a zookeeper's role in animal health is preventative and covered in other topics in Area 2 and 3: providing species appropriate exhibits, social groups, nutrition and enrichment will all help zoo animals remain physically and mentally healthy. Even with a high level of care animals may still become ill or injured, and require short or long-term additional care. In these circumstances, zookeepers play a vital role in communicating with veterinarians and zookeepers are expected to demonstrate competence in the following areas:

- Health Observations: zookeepers know the animals they work with, and can take appropriate action when they identify health concerns (relates to topics 2.1 and 2.2).
- Administering Treatments: zookeepers can assist veterinary staff in administering a range of treatments in different circumstances.
- Medical Procedures: zookeepers may attend and be able to assist during medical procedures carried out by vets.

	Zookeepers working at Competent level can:	Zookeepers working at Proficient level can:	Zookeepers working at Expert level can:
2.9.1 Health Observations	<b>Perform</b> frequent daily observations of animals they are working with	<b>Monitor</b> changes in health of individuals with pre-identified health issues and report their findings to a supervisor or veterinarian	<b>Compile</b> records of observations over time and across individuals
	<b>Identify</b> visual signs of poor health (can be physical: e.g. feather loss, visible wounds or behavioural: e.g. lethargy, reduced feeding)	<b>Assess</b> the severity of a health problem and share their assessment with a supervisor or veterinarian in a timely manner	<b>Evaluate</b> observation data and identify trends in health observations

	<b>Monitor</b> waste output and report any unusual changes (e.g. loose faeces)		<b>Collaborate</b> with colleagues to <b>plan effective solutions</b> if trends in poor health are identified
	<b>Report</b> any signs of poor health to a supervisor, giving a detailed description of their observations		
	<b>List</b> common indicators of poor health in species they work with		
<b>2.9.2 Administering Treatments</b>	<b>Assist</b> in administering simple and routine treatments as part of preventative care or management of chronic health issues (e.g. adding medication to food or water)	<b>Assist</b> in administering more complex treatment after appropriate training from a veterinarian (e.g. direct administration of medication to an individual)	<b>Collaborate</b> with veterinarians to <b>develop</b> a treatment plan
	<b>Comply</b> with any recommended husbandry changes required for treatment (e.g. provision of dust free bedding)		<b>Support</b> team members in implementing a treatment plan
	<b>Record</b> details of any treatment administered		
<b>2.9.3 Medical Procedures</b>	<b>Comply</b> with instructions from veterinary staff	<b>Attend</b> and <b>observe</b> medical procedures carried out on their animals (if invited by veterinary staff)	<b>Assist</b> in medical procedures by monitoring vital signs (e.g. temperature, heart rate)

		<b>Follow</b> agreed procedure to minimise risks to animal or human health (relates to topic 3.2)	<b>Assist</b> in medical procedures by managing animals using appropriate techniques (relates to topic 2.6)

By the end of your 6-month probation you must be able to.

Senior keepers must constantly hit (All yellow, and green).