

Guide to Remote End-Point Assessment

Advancing and promoting excellence in the care and welfare of
animals in research.

IAT Education

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Animal Care and Welfare Assistant

Veterinary Care Support

The EPA should only be started once the employer is satisfied that the requirements of the EPA have been met. The remote EPA must be completed with a total assessment time of 3 hours (+/-10%). As with a standard EPA, the remote EPA consists of 2 distinct methods: practical assessment and professional discussion. Performance in the EPA will determine a grade of fail, pass or distinction.

Remote Practical Assessment

The remote practical assessment will provide the opportunity for the apprentice to demonstrate core knowledge, skills and behaviours. This will offer the opportunity to bring together and apply their learning. Apprentices will be assessed to evaluate their knowledge, skills and behaviours to perform operational activities. Apprentices will complete a practical assessment in their workplace consisting of two obligatory tasks, 1. and 2., and at least one optional task from 3.

- 1.** Cleaning, preparing, and maintaining animal accommodation, enclosures, environment and equipment.
- 2.** Selecting food and water – specific to species, in the context of the work environment – preparing it and providing it in preparation for the animal(s) for example food may need to be chopped, blended, sterilised etc before being presented to the animals in either bowl, scattered on the floor, in dishes, hoppers etc.
- 3.** Animal interactions and handling (if required). Reception and client care, daily cleaning and deep cleans, assisting vet or nurse in consults, running in house labs, prepare external lab forms, assisting nurse in theatre, X-ray set up and processing. Processing insurance forms, ordering and dispensary.

Apprentices are to be provided with these instructions and will have 5 minutes at the start of the Practical Assessment to read the written instructions. The Apprentice must not have access to the written instructions once the Practical Assessment has started.

As this is a remote practical assessment, apprentices will be filmed while carrying out these tasks by a suitable individual, previously agreed upon by IAT education (e.g. unit manager, supervisor). These videos should not be edited or retaken.

Each video will need to start with the apprentice confirming their identity by showing ID (ideally by presenting a driver's licence or passport), and confirming that the video is demonstrating their first attempt. While videoing, care needs to be taken in order to ensure that all tasks are recorded with no obstructions so that all activity is visible. It is also important to ensure that the angles of both the camera and apprentice enable the assessor to clearly see all measures taken by the apprentice (i.e. the apprentice should be facing the camera where possible).

Sound quality is equally as important. For example, assessors should be able to clearly hear the apprentice describe the task they are performing and the reasoning behind the actions they are taking. We would expect the video to show the apprentice in their usual or regular setting, however if adjustments are needed, for example to ensure the sound quality of the video is clear (e.g. moving away from loud machinery, etc.) the apprentice will need to state that this adjustment has been made and why.

The expected time of the filmed practical assessment would be approximately 1 hour. Once video has been taken, it will need to be uploaded onto a secure share point site to be provided by IAT Education. If uploading more than one video, please label them in numeric order.

Please note: the sites are secure and encrypted, meaning videos will only be viewed by IAT Education assessors, and will not be shared.

Professional Discussion

Once the practical assessment has been assessed and passed, the apprentice will be invited for a professional discussion. We anticipate this would be within 48 hours of the practical assessment. Professional discussion will take place via Teams, at the apprentice's place of employment. We would expect the apprentice to be provided with a private room, a mains powered laptop/ PC (not battery only) with internet connection, ideally via ethernet. Please note should the video/ audio quality of the Teams meeting be insufficient for the professional discussion; the discussion will be terminated and rearranged (employers may be liable for a rearrangement fee in this scenario).

The professional discussion will be a maximum of 2 hours in length (+/- 10%) and will be used to assess the animal care and welfare assistant on their knowledge, skills, and behaviours (mapped in appendix 1 of the apprenticeship standard), using the apprentice's portfolio of evidence as a basis for a discussion. There will be 10 competency based questions asked during the professional discussion.

They will cover:

- behaviour related questions
- core knowledge related questions
- core skills related questions
- optional knowledge and skills related questions based on species specialism

Please note although the discussion will be scheduled for 2 hours, the discussion should only last 1 hour after which the apprentice may be asked to exit the call for approximately 5-10 minutes to allow assessors to discuss any other areas, they would like to question the apprentice on, before the apprentice is invited back in for the final part of the discussion.

The apprentice will be notified with the result of their end point assessment (fail, pass, distinction) within 5 working days of the professional discussion.

