Animal Care and Land-based Industries

HND Animal Behaviour and Welfare

Campus: University Centre Rotherham
Code: D10HE03
Type: Full Time

The HND Animal Behaviour and Welfare is designed for learners who wish to develop advanced knowledge and practical skills in animal behaviour, welfare science, anthrozoology, genetics, and animal management. This qualification builds upon prior study in animal management or animal behaviour and prepares students for specialist careers or progression to full degree-level study.The course explores the scientific principles underpinning animal behaviour and welfare, while also examining the complex relationships between humans and animals within society. You will investigate animal cognition, behavioural management strategies, genetics, breeding, evolution, and adaptation, alongside contemporary welfare issues affecting companion, captive, and domesticated animals.Throughout the programme, you will combine academic study with practical application, developing industry-relevant skills in animal observation, behavioural assessment, welfare monitoring, research methods, and professional practice. The course also supports the development of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, scientific research, independent learning, and project management.Successful completion of the HND can support progression into employment within the animal sector or entry into the final year of a related university degree programme.

Why Study With Us?

Specialist Practical Learning

At Dearne Valley College, you will gain practical experience working with a range of domesticated and exotic species within our specialist Animal Management Centre. The course combines academic theory with industry-focused practical learning to prepare you for employment or further study.

Industry-Relevant Curriculum

The HND focuses on current issues within animal behaviour and welfare, including human-animal relationships, behavioural management, genetics, and welfare science, ensuring your learning reflects modern industry practice.

Expert Tutors

You will be taught by experienced tutors with higher education qualifications and professional industry experience in animal behaviour, welfare, conservation, and animal management. Their expertise will support your academic development and career progression.

Research and Professional Development

The course encourages independent study and research, helping you develop the analytical and professional skills required for higher education and employment within the animal sector.

Progression Opportunities

Successful completion of the HND provides a recognised higher education qualification and can support progression onto the final year of a bachelor's degree or into specialist employment within the animal industry.

Modules Covered

Units Include:

- Unit 23: Biological Principles
- Unit 24: Research Project
- Unit 25: Anthrozoology
- Unit 26: Evolution and Adaptations
- Unit 33: Breeding and Genetics
- Unit 43: Behavioural Approaches to Animal Management
- Unit 44: Humanisation of Companion Animals

You will study a range of specialist topics including:

- Animal biology and physiological processes
- Human-animal interactions and anthrozoology

- Animal evolution, adaptation, and environmental responses
- Principles of genetics and selective breeding
- Animal behaviour assessment and modification techniques
- Welfare implications of humanisation in companion animals
- Scientific research methods and data analysis
- Ethical considerations within animal welfare and management
- Behavioural management strategies across different species

Entry Requirements

Applicants are typically expected to have:

- A relevant HNC qualification in Animal Management, Animal Behaviour and Welfare, or a related subject
- GCSE English and Mathematics at Grade 4/C or above (or equivalent)
- Relevant industry experience may also be considered

All applicants may be invited to attend an interview to discuss suitability and progression goals.

How To Apply

You can apply using our online application form and clicking the **Apply Now** button at the top of the page.

Career Opportunities

This qualification can support careers within:

- Animal Welfare and Rescue Organisations
- Animal Behaviour and Training Services
- Zoos and Wildlife Parks
- Companion Animal Welfare Services
- Conservation and Environmental Organisations
- Animal Rehabilitation Centres
- Research and Education Roles
- Animal Breeding and Genetics Services

PLEASE NOTE

We make every effort to ensure information within our online course directory is accurate and a true representation of the courses we are offering in 2027-28 However, we do reserve the right to make changes if necessary.

Last updated: 27th November 2026