



IAT Practical Animal Handling & Health Module



This is a stand-alone practical module for persons who wish to apply for election as an Associate, Member or Fellow of the Institute of Animal Technology.

This module does NOT form part of the IAT's Levels 2-4 Educational Programme.



Background

The IAT recognises that competence in handling and sexing of species is essential for good animal welfare. Training in this module may be carried out in the candidate's "work place" and verified by the Home Office Named Training and Competence officer (NTCO). The NTCO will be required to sign the applicant's completed submission of this module, to confirm the required standards of training and assessment have been met.

This stand-alone module forms part of the requirements for election to Associate, Member (MIAT) or Fellow (FIAT) of the Institute of Animal Technology. This module, when successfully completed, is valid for the life of the individual and applies to all the above grades of IAT membership. It is not required for applications for Student or Affiliate membership. This module does not form any part of the IAT qualifications.

Summary

This is a practical assessment of a candidate's ability to demonstrate the practical skills they have gained in the workplace and of their wider expertise in the skills of animal handling and restraint, sexing, and health checking. To be elected as a member of the Institute, a candidate will need to demonstrate competence in the specie that they work with or intend to work with in the near future. If they move to another specie they must undertake appropriate additional training to maintain standards of competence and professionalism.

Learning Outcomes

To achieve this module a candidate must:

- 1 Demonstrate the ability to competently and safely handle and sex laboratory animals they work with
- 2 Demonstrate the procedure for the safe handling and restraint of laboratory animals for common scientific and husbandry activities
- 3 Identify or be capable of recognising signs of ill health in laboratory animals they work with.

Assessment content

This practical assessment will be drawn from the following areas:

1. HANDLING COMMON LABORATORY SPECIES

Health and safety: compliance with legislation and local rules *Techniques:* procedures and equipment required for the safe handling and restraint for common husbandry and scientific procedures appropriate to the named species

2. SEXING COMMON LABORATORY ANIMALS

Techniques: accurate assessment of the sex of the animal using or describing techniques appropriate to the named species

3. HEALTH CHECKS

Healthy animal: recognition of the normal behaviour and appearance of the named species *Health checking:* observation at rest and in movement, detailed examination procedure, clinical signs, recording and reporting, remedial action and suggested further investigations appropriate to the named specie.



| | Learning Outcomes | Assessment Criteria To achieve each Learning Outcome a candidate must be able to handle and sex a species, (including neonatal forms of small rodents where applicable). |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Demonstrate the ability to safely handle and sex laboratory animals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow appropriate health and safety and animal welfare guidelines at all times.• Confident approach (without causing unnecessary disturbance).• Handle, remove, and support the animal from its environment.• Restrain the animal safely and confidently.• Correctly identify the sex of the animal. |
| 2 | Demonstrate the procedure for the safe handling and restraint of laboratory animals for common scientific or husbandry activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow appropriate health and safety and animal welfare guidelines at all times.• Confidently approach (without causing unnecessary disturbance).• Handle, remove, support and restrain the animal for two different scientific activities.• Identify any legal obligations. |
| 3 | Identify signs of ill health in laboratory animals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow appropriate health and safety and animal welfare guidelines at all times.• Describe the normal appearance of the animal.• Examine the animal logically and thoroughly• Explain common problems that may be found and describe how to alleviate. |



Assessment schedule and strategy

- 1. Practical assessment of competence to cover LO 1-3

Support notes

A candidate would be expected to be fully conversant with the techniques as shown in the IAT Handle with Care and Procedures with Care DVDs.

It is expected that appropriate standards of animal welfare be considered throughout the module. Appropriate standards of health and safety should be considered also.

This module is designed to recognise practical skills and can only be taught with appropriate access to live animals. Instruction should only be carried out by appropriately skilled and experienced trainers.

The assessor must be knowledgeable and experienced with the species the candidate is being assessed on.

Assessors may not assess a candidate for whom they have direct supervisory line-management responsibility.

The IAT recommends that the assessors be IAT qualified staff (Members (MIAT), Fellows (FIAT) and ideally a Registered Animal Technologist (RAnTech)) or other competent person approved by the IAT.

Guidance on assessment

Assessment can be claimed by attending suitably accredited courses or through individual assessment in the workplace.

A candidate will pass the module if they demonstrate the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria listed in this module. Minor errors that do not impact on the health and safety of a candidate or assessor, and/or do not cause concern about the animals' welfare will not result in automatic failure. A candidate may be given a second chance to address these mistakes.

Errors that impact on the health and safety of a candidate or assessor, and/or cause concern about the animals' welfare will result in automatic failure. In this event, a candidate will need to retake the module after further training.

Table with 2 columns: Assessment, Guidance. Row 1: Practical assessment of competence to cover LO 1-3. A candidate will be expected to physically demonstrate competence on live examples. The use of pictures and written descriptions are acceptable to aid identification of a candidate's ability to sex animals of differing ages and identify signs of ill health.

Note: When sexing rodent neonates a minimum of 5 neonates are to be sexed. Only one error is permitted



EXAMINATION MARK SHEET

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Candidate: | | |
| Assessor: | | |
| Place of assessment: | Date of Assessment | Species |
| | ✓ indicates successful completion of the task | Comments / feedback |
| Task LO1 | | |
| Follow appropriate health and safety and animal welfare guidelines at all times | | |
| Confident approach (without causing unnecessary disturbance to the animal). | | |
| Handle and remove the animal from its environment. | | |
| Restrain the animal safely and confidently. | | |
| Correct use of equipment if appropriate. | | |
| Correctly identify the sex of the animal or explain how this could be achieved for a species where no obvious difference is present | | |
| Task LO2 | | |
| Follow appropriate health and safety and animal welfare guidelines at all times. | | |
| Confidently approach (without causing unnecessary disturbance). | | |
| Handle, remove, support and restrain the animal for two different scientific activities. | | |
| Identify any legal obligations. | | |
| TASK LO3 | | |
| Follow appropriate health and safety and animal welfare guidelines at all times. | | |
| Describe the normal appearance of the animal. | | |
| Examine the animal logically and thoroughly | | |
| Explain common problems that may be found and describe how to alleviate and record | | |



NAME OF CANDIDATE.....

Professional address.....

.....

Email address.....Membership Number.....

The above candidate has successfully completed all of the tasks and is judged competent under the examination conditions in the following species:

Print name of assessor.....

IAT Membership number of assessor.....

Email address of assessor.....

Signature of assessor

Date:.....

As Sites NTCO I confirm that the above candidate has received appropriate training and been assessed in their competences of the named specie as per the requirements of this module.

Name of NTCO..... Signature.....

The completed form should be returned to;

IAT Administrator 5 South Parade Summertown Oxford OX2 7JL