Animal Care and Land-based Industries

HNC Animal Behaviour and Welfare

Campus: University Centre Rotherham
Code: D10HE02
Type: Full Time

The HNC Animal Behaviour and Welfare is ideal for learners who are passionate about animal care, behaviour, welfare, and conservation, and who wish to develop the practical and academic skills needed for employment or progression to higher education within the animal sector.This course provides a strong foundation in animal welfare, behaviour, husbandry, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, and conservation. You will explore how animals interact with their environments and society, while gaining an understanding of ethical animal management and welfare standards across a range of species.Throughout the programme, you will develop both theoretical knowledge and practical experience through hands-on activities within animal management settings. The course also supports the development of transferable skills including communication, teamwork, research, problem-solving, and professional practice.The HNC qualification is suitable for learners progressing from Level 3 study or those already working within the animal industry who wish to enhance their knowledge and career opportunities. Successful completion can support progression into employment or further higher education study within animal-related disciplines.

Why Study With Us?

Practical, Industry-Relevant Learning

At Dearne Valley College, you will gain hands-on experience working with a wide range of domesticated and exotic animals within our specialist Animal Management Centre. Practical learning is embedded throughout the course to prepare you for real industry environments.

Specialist Facilities

Our facilities include specialist animal housing, enrichment areas, and practical learning spaces that support the study of animal welfare, behaviour, husbandry, and conservation.

Expert Tutors

You will be taught by experienced tutors with higher education qualifications and industry experience in animal management, welfare, and behavioural sciences. Their knowledge and support will help you develop both academically and professionally.

Career and Higher Education Progression

The HNC provides a recognised higher education qualification that can support progression into employment or further study such as HNDs, foundation degrees, or full honours degrees in animal-related subjects.

Supportive Learning Environment

We provide personalised support and guidance to help all learners succeed, develop confidence, and achieve their academic and career goals.

Modules Covered

Units Include:

- Unit 1: Animal Health and Welfare
- Unit2: Business and Business Environment
- Unit 4: Animal Behaviours in Soeciety
- Unit 5: Animal Husbandry
- Unit 6: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 7: Animal Nutrition
- Unit 50: Endangered Species Conservation

You Will study a range of topics including:

- Animal welfare legislation and ethical practice
- Animal health monitoring and management

- Nutrition and feeding requirements for different species
- Animal anatomy, physiology, and biological systems
- Behavioural development and animal interactions within society
- Practical animal husbandry skills
- Conservation methods and endangered species protection
- Business principles within the animal industry
- Research and academic study skills

Entry Requirements

Applicants are typically expected to have:

- A relevant Level 3 qualification in Animal Management or a related subject
- GCSE English and Mathematics at Grade 4/C or above (or equivalent
- Appropriate 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 this page.

For more information,support with your enquiry or application please contact Student Services by emailing learn@dearne-coll.ac.uk or by calling **01709 513355**.

Career Opportunities

Successful completion of the HNC Animal Behaviour and Welfare can lead to progression onto:

- HND Animal Management or related subjects
- Foundation Degrees in Animal Welfare, Animal Behaviour, or Anthrozoology
- Full undergraduate degree programmes at university

Possible Degree Pathways:

- Animal Behaviour
- Animal Welfare Science
- Zoology
- Wildlife Conservation

- Veterinary Nursing
- Animal Management
- Anthrozoology

Additional Information

The HNC Animal Behaviour and Welfare is designed for learners who:

- Are passionate about animal welfare and behaviour
- Wish to progress into higher education or employment in the animal industry
- Enjoy practical, hands-on learning alongside academic study
- Want to develop specialist knowledge in animal care, nutrition, husbandry, and conservation
- Are interested in understanding animal interactions within society and improving animal wellbeing

This course is suitable for school leavers, adult learners, and those currently working within the animal sector who wish to gain a higher education qualification.

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: 22nd November 2026