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Certificate III in Animal Studies

Industry's preferred qualification level for secondary students is Certificate II. Certificate III in Animal Studies is only supported for delivery when there is access to quality and relevant work placements. Schools are generally unlikely to meet the workplace/simulated environment, resource and/or trainer/assessor requirements. There are limited employment opportunities for this qualification, however it can provide a pathway to further training.

RESPONSE FROM ANIMAL WELFARE INDUSTRY FOCUS GROUP

The animal care sector has specific pathways depending on the job roles. For example, Vet Nursing has its own qualification, and many extensive animal production roles also have their own qualifications within the AHC training package. Intensive industries such as pig farming¹ and chicken/egg farming² have their own industry-standard training programs focussed on animal welfare and production. There is also a dog grooming skill set. Animal Health Australia provides training on emergency animal disease³.

Whilst working with animals is a role many people aspire to, there are few animal specific roles that would require a Certificate III Animal Studies and certainly not one delivered in a school setting. Animal welfare regulatory roles are important, however, certainly not plentiful in Tasmania and have the requirement of a Certificate IV in Government Investigations.

Anyone working with animals must have well developed people skills as much of the role is working with the people - either in an advisory or regulatory role. The work can be confronting as not all animals are easily handled and can involve dealing with people at their worst. This requires high levels of maturity, situational awareness, and an ability to deal with confrontation.

Preferred skills for school leavers entering the sector:

- Good levels of literacy and numeracy to enable understanding of the complexities of animal welfare and husbandry including nutritional requirements. So often when things go wrong in looking after animals it is due to a lack of knowledge and understanding of the basics.
- Awareness of the requirements for people working with or owning animals under the *Animal Welfare Act (1993)* and the associated regulations. A basic understanding of what is right and what is wrong is also required.

¹ <https://australianpork.com.au/training-and-development>

² <https://www.australianeggs.org.au/for-farmers/tools-and-training>

³ <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ead-training/>

- Knowledge and understanding of animal biosecurity and emergency animal diseases.
- Maturity and situation awareness as the role requires considerable interactions with people, often in confronting situations.
- A working knowledge of the Five Welfare Domains⁴.
- Basics on how to euthanise an animal properly and undertake the relevant checks.
- Driver's licence.

Preferred pathway for school leavers entering the sector:

- As the roles are so varied it is difficult to look at a preferred pathway, however, knowledge and understanding of the key skills mentioned above is critical.
- Traineeships are difficult to manage in many areas due to the nature of the work and the necessity to be supervised. Traineeships may only provide limited activities for a school-aged learner.
- Jobs in retail, such as animal and rural supplies, would fit in under a retail operations training package or a rural operations package rather than animal studies.

The sector has concerns with the completion of Certificate III Animal Studies in school/college for the following reasons:

- Limited real world jobs in this space as much of the work in animals is covered specifically under industry-owned training or within the AHC training package.
- Relevant work exposure is difficult to access due to the nature of the various roles.
- There is a level of maturity and an understanding of complex issues that is required in working with animals.



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⁴ <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/livestock-welfare/>