

## Animal Handling Competencies

Below is a list of competencies that students are advised to develop while on Preclinical EMS when appropriate and in consultation with their placement provider.

Students are advised prior to starting a preclinical EMS placement to review this list of competencies and to discuss with their placement provider any competencies they would like to develop, if possible, given the learning opportunities afforded in the placement at that time.

<b>Core Competencies: Cattle</b>
Approach, catch and use headgate gate and crush to restrain
Hold yearling, adult by nose/mouth
Use of halter, standard & temporary
Restrain by 'nosing', tongs & nose rings
Anti-kicking devices/techniques; tail, flank, flank rope, anti-kick bar, spancel
Lift/restrain feet for examination
Movement of cattle out of shed and into race/crush
Body condition score
Weight estimation
Assessment of degree of finish for beef
Tagging/identification; transponders, tags, neck bands, tattoos, freeze branding
Draw milk by hand, sterile milk sampling, CMT
Examine mouth & aging
Recognise signs of health
Observe sites for injection (s.c, i.m., i.v.),
Observe <i>Per os</i> dosing (syringe, gun, bolus)
Signs of oestrus
Observe insertion or PRIDs or CIDRS for breeding synchronisation
Breed recognition
Linear Assessment

**Core Competencies: Calves**

Approach to catch, hold and restrain calf

Move calf

Put calf in crate

Restrain in lateral position calf (lying), examine navel, teats

Tagging, view cattle ID documents

Weight estimation

Signs of health

Observe administration of medicines:

- *per os* dosing syringe
- dosing gun
- stomach tube (oral & nasal)
- sites of injection

Observe castration

Restrain for disbudding; observe use of disbudder

**Core Competencies: Sheep**

Catch, hold, move, turn up

Examine mouth, teeth & age

Condition score

Examine and pare feet

Use drenching gun, administer bolus or capsule by gun

Lambing assistance: tail docking, castration, stomach tubing etc

Sites for injection

Signs of health; mucosa, take pulse and temperature

Identify major breeds/cross breeds in Ireland, rad tags, view flock register

Selection of ewes and rams for breeding; examination of ram for reproductive soundness

<b>Core Competencies: Horses</b>
Approach and catch in stable
Halter, lead by halter, tie up by halter (quick release knot)
Exit stable
Release correctly into stable
Hold horse for inspection, reverse and turn
Lead horse for inspection
Restrain using twitch /chifney / pinch / lift front leg
Apply/take off bridle
Signs of health
Vaccinations, worming programmes
Administration of oral medicines (e.g. wormers), know sites for injections
Points of the horse
Comment on general conformation (static, dynamic)
Lift feet and use hoof pick
Recognise good farriery
Comment on hoof conformation
Shoes and bits
Put on/take off rug, boots, exercise, stable & tail bandages
Measure height (estimation and by measuring stick)
Examine mouth and ageing
Colours & markings/ scan for microchip, view passports
Estimate weight of horse
Lunge horse

**Core Competencies: Companion Animals****DOGS**

Approach and restrain

Hold and carry

Lift on to table and hold for examination

Comment on temperament

Assess approximate weight and age and establish sex

Identify common breeds

Examine and Clip nails

Evacuate anal glands

Apply tape muzzles

Identify common sites for injections &amp; blood sampling

Be familiar with the normal reproductive cycle of dogs

Advise on appropriate diets, feeding and exercise

Advise on routine grooming and maintenance

Advise on care of puppies

Advise on vaccination and worming programmes

Examine mouth

Estimate age

Give tablets

Take pulse and temperature

Restrain for blood sampling and injection

Examine for presence of testicles / spay scar

Body condition score of dog

Scan for microchip; confirm presence or absence of microchip using scanner; check for tattoo

Check for flea infestation

Examine ears, clean ears

Description of dog (coat type, colour etc.)

<b>CATS</b>
Safely handle and carry out routine procedures on cats
Basic knowledge of how to handle & control feral cats
Confidently sex cats and kittens
Advise about the reproductive cycle & neutering of cats
Advise about routine vaccination and worming of cats
Advise on control of fleas/mites
Advise on provision of a suitable diet
Safely administer oral medication
Safely administer ear and eye preparations
Know the common sites for s/c, i/m and i/v injections and blood sampling
Rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, mice
Confidently and competently lift, handle, restrain, and sex.