

DOPS Assessment of practical skills

Zebrafish fin clipping

Assessment criteria/ Grading

(Please tick boxes according to criteria demonstrated)



“Below expectations” [BE]

- Failure to choose suitable PPE and/or prepare clean equipment
- Failure to check tank label or fish id; failure to count fish before & afterwards
- Causes unnecessary stress for the animal e.g. banging tanks down
- Poor organisation, > 90 sec with the animal out of the tank
- Failure to identify the appropriate equipment to execute the procedure (scissors or scalpel)
- Procedure performed in an unsafe manner for the operator
- Demonstrates disrespectful behaviour towards fish and persons
- Unaware of the need of anaesthesia to perform the procedure
- Unable to recognize the different stages of anaesthetic depth and identify the adequate one to perform the procedure
- Extracts more than 50% of the fin (ideally 1/3 of the fin tip- less than halfway between the tip of the fin and the point where the scales end)
- Apply too much pressure when handling the animal (e.g. Animal bleeding)
- Unable to identify the following steps to recover the animal after clipping

Requirements for “borderline” [Bo]

- Catching technique not optimal but not causing undue stress to animal
- Manipulation technique could be improved
- Time that the animal spent out of water could be optimised (90<time>60)
- Extracts <50% of the fin
- Animal evaluation reflexes technique not optimal but could be improved

Requirements for “meets expectations” [ME]

- Organises the area efficiently to minimise time out of water
- Correct choice of equipment & water (quality and quantity)
- Correct choice of anaesthetic, anaesthetic dose and dilution to prepare the anaesthetic bath
- Time<60 that the animal spent out of water
- Aware of microbiological concepts (ex: knows how to handle “dirty “and “clean” material – cross contaminations)
- Removes, handles and sets the tanks safely and showing empathy for the fish
- Extracts 1/3 of the fin
- Catches and releases fish with patience & empathy
- Demonstrates professional behaviour towards fish and persons
- Knows the following steps to recover the animal
- Able to monitor and recognize when animal regains swimming ability
- Defines the period in which the animal should return to the holding tank

Requirements for “exceeds expectations” [EE]

- Excellent manual dexterity in catching fish
- Explains choice of equipment and water quality
- Demonstrates that knows what to do if the procedure fails, and is required to end animal suffering.
- Explains how to avoid infections (e.g. use of methylene blue solution)

Requirement to be assessed as **COMPETENT**: One borderline score or better.

Candidates scoring "Below expectations" on any point OR two borderline scores are recommended to "continue supervision"



Feedback for trainee:

Things done particularly well		
Learning points		
Action points		
Formative Only <input type="checkbox"/>	Trainee Not yet competent <input type="checkbox"/>	Trainee Competent <input type="checkbox"/>
Assessor Name : _____ Signature : _____	Trainee Name : _____ Signature : _____	
DATE:		

GLOBAL RATING: **COMPETENT**

CONTINUE SUPERVISION