



**Australian Government**

**Assessment Requirements for ACMAAS401  
Manage animals and facilitate  
human-animal interaction in  
animal-assisted services**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for ACMAAS401 Manage animals and facilitate human-animal interaction in animal-assisted services

## Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.

## Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- managed an animal and facilitated human-animal interaction in an animal-assisted service, in one of the following categories, on at least three occasions:
  - animal-assisted therapy (involving a qualified medical or allied health worker)
  - animal-assisted learning (involving a learning professional)
  - animal-assisted activities (involving visitation services to a range of facilities).

In doing so, the individual must have:

- worked and communicated effectively as a team member
- managed care of animal and organised access to facility
- prepared team members for safe and supportive animal-human interactions
- completed documentation and reporting requirements using industry terminology
- complied with relevant regulations, policies and procedures.

## Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- types of animal-assisted services, including:
  - animal-assisted therapy (involving a qualified medical or allied health worker)
  - animal-assisted learning (involving a learning professional/educator)
  - animal-assisted activities (visitation services to a range of facilities)
- range of disabilities and/or special needs of individuals that can be supported through animal-assisted services, including:
  - physical, visual or hearing support
  - health care support

- mental health support
- learning support
- special needs related to companionship and wellbeing
- key features of species-specific behaviour of animals commonly used in animal-assisted services
- human-animal bond, including:
  - benefits and costs to humans and animals
  - influence of cultural or religious beliefs, health issues or personal preferences
  - strategies for initiation and reciprocation
  - responsibility of the human to the animal
- key types of evidence-based modalities relevant to goals of participant treatment plans or therapies relevant to context
- range of stakeholders involved in animal-assisted services, including:
  - practitioners – medical, health/allied health professionals; teachers/learning specialists and/or case workers
  - participant – student, client, patient, vulnerable individual or individual with disability or special needs
  - support person – family member, carer
  - animal handlers/trainers
  - organisations
- role of the animal-handler in relation to:
  - participant care, support and safety
  - animal welfare and care
- key features and requirements of animals used in animal-assisted services (species-specific), including:
  - behaviour and types of activities animals can be trained to carry out
  - basic husbandry care
  - animal health and hygiene requirements
  - humane and low stress handling techniques
  - animal welfare and wellbeing requirements, including concept of one health-one welfare
- health and safety requirements when working with animals:
  - awareness of zoonoses (human to animal and animal to human) – transmission pathways, prevention and treatment
  - use of personal protective equipment
  - facility standards for safety, access/security and animal care
  - overview of One Health
- key requirements of state/territory legislative and regulatory requirements, including for:
  - animal-assisted service providers
  - assistance animal training, assessment and accreditation
- codes of conduct and ethics relevant to sector, including:

- awareness of allied health professional codes and ethics
- current codes of conduct for animal-assisted services
- service provider/practitioner requirements relating to safety, animal welfare, reporting, client confidentiality, privacy and consent procedures.

## Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - live animals assessed as suitable for intended animal-assisted service required for the performance evidence
  - equipment and resources for the handling and/or transport of animals
- specifications:
  - relevant legislation, codes of conduct and organisational procedures
  - animal welfare and wellbeing requirements, including One Health
- relationships:
  - team members specified in the performance evidence.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

## Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>