Assessment Requirements for ACMADT501 Plan and conduct assistance dog training in specific and complex tasks

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 6.0.

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:

- used operant and classical conditioning techniques to train two handler and assistance dog teams on two different occasions in suitable methodologies and practices and response to human verbal and/or visual cues in one specific task and three complex tasks
- maintained records of dog training processes and progress in all of these instances.

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:

- legislation, regulations, codes of practice and welfare requirements that apply to dog welfare and public access
- dog breeds and breed types, and associated characteristics and temperaments that make them desirable as assistance dogs
- operant and classical conditioning techniques used to train assistance dogs
- purposes of training dogs
- underpinning theoretical principles of dog training, including:
  - associative learning – operant and classical conditioning, including extinction
  - non-associative learning – habituation and sensitisation
  - primary and secondary reinforcers
  - schedules of reinforcement
  - conditioning principles and appropriate methods of rewarding dogs for exhibiting required behaviour
  - ethical and positive training methods that reinforce natural behaviour and maintain the assistive skills and enthusiasm of the dog
- positive reinforcement conditioning techniques and tools, including:

- luring
- targeting
- capturing and shaping (prompted and free)
- relevant dog physiology, including:
  - olfactory perception
  - eyesight
  - physical dexterity
- considerations relating to a dog's age
- dog-training methodologies and practices relevant to assistance dog specific and complex training, including:
  - conditioning principles and appropriate methods of rewarding specific dogs for exhibiting required behaviour
  - items and their associated odours that an assistance dog could be required to detect in its working role
  - building on tasks mastered
  - methods of assessing when dogs are ready to extend to more complex tasking
  - capabilities and limitations of assistance dogs
  - work environment in which assistance dogs could be deployed and emergencies that could arise within those environments
  - responses expected from dogs using verbal and visual cues
  - consistent application of visual and verbal cues
- stress signals displayed by dogs, including:
  - sniffing
  - lip licking
  - individual dog body language that denotes stress
- key features, benefits and limitations of scientific guidelines for animal trainers, including:
  - Least Intrusive Effective Behaviour Intervention (LIEBI model)
  - Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) training
  - Hierarchy of Procedures for Humane and Effective Practice
- assistance dog training methods for specific tasks, including:
  - behaviour training as a response to predictable situations
- awareness of how to enrich the assistance dog's physical, emotional and mental health and lifestyle needs
- biosecurity requirements
- communication techniques to relay dog training and welfare information to dog owners and handlers
- workplace health and safety procedures and principles related to training assistance dogs, including:
  - manual handling of dogs
  - using training equipment safely
  - risk and control strategies

- location of emergency equipment during training
- equipment that may be used in dog training, including:
  - collars, head halter, martingales
  - leads and leashes
  - balance harnesses
  - working jackets, coats and identification vests
  - markers and clickers
  - modified grooming equipment
  - toys
  - treat pouches
  - personal protective equipment (PPE) for handler if required.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
  - skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents assistance dog training workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - equipment used in dog training as required for the Performance Evidence
- specifications:
  - workplace policies and procedures
- relationships:
  - assistance dog and handler training teams.

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