



**Australian Government**

# **Assessment Requirements for ACMBEH301 Identify behaviours and interact safely with animals**

**Release: 1**

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## 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:

- identified and interpreted common animal behaviour, including body language for two different species or breed groups
- described the behaviour, using objective behavioural terminology, and the approach to handling or interacting with three animals experiencing different emotional states, including:
  - an animal showing defensive and fearful behaviour
  - an animal that is calm
- used safe and low stress handling techniques and equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE) to interact with, restrain, move and/or handle at least two different animals to carry out an activity, selected from two of the following:
  - one animal requiring two people to manually lift or move
  - one animal to be handled, lifted and/or moved independently
  - one small and/or fragile animal to be handled or moved
  - one animal to be handled or moved in an activity undertaken in close proximity with the handler
  - one animal to be moved into or out of an enclosure.

## 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:

- how to identify animals by:
  - species and breed
  - physical characteristics, including colour and sex
  - common forms of visual identification

- common species-specific behaviour traits and factors that influence behaviour, including genetics, health, environment, current situation/context and previous learning
- core emotional states in animals, including positive, neutral and negative states
- concept of anthropomorphism
- species-specific body language and signs, including:
  - gross and fine movements and vocalisation (where relevant to species)
  - coping behaviours
- how to recognise and respond to behaviours that are potentially unsafe
- carer-animal relationship and its effect on the animal's behaviour
- basic concepts for influencing or directing animal movement, including:
  - body positioning
  - clear instruction or cues
  - species-specific holding or restraint techniques
  - use of positive reinforcers
  - flight zone, pressure zone and point of balance
- safe, low stress and humane species-specific handling techniques and equipment
- hazards and risks associated with handling and interacting with animals, including:
  - injuries, including bites, scratches and manual handling
  - infectious diseases and zoonoses
  - compatibility of different animals
- purpose of PPE items, including footwear, gloves and protective clothing
- common activities undertaken in animal care sectors, including for:
  - health, hygiene and sanitation/infection control
  - grooming
  - medical procedures
  - manual lifting/moving of animals
- key principles of animal welfare and ethics relevant to handling and interacting with animals
- key requirements of health and safety legislation for work undertaken in animal care environments.

## Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
  - an animal care workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - live animals as specified in the performance evidence

- videos of animal behaviour where relevant aspects of behaviour cannot be observed with live animals
- equipment and resources appropriate to work being undertaken in an animal care environment, including PPE
- specifications:
  - workplace policies and procedures related to safety and low stress handling/interaction with animals.

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>