



Australian Government

ACMSPE321 Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles

Release: 1

ACMSPE321 Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles

Modification History

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

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify non-venomous reptiles and their behavioural and physical needs and provide daily care requirements.

This unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry where it may be necessary to care for non-venomous reptiles. This may include animal shelters or rehabilitation organisations, zoos or similar workplaces. In some cases, animals may have been rescued from the wild and successful rehabilitation is required to restore animal health and wellbeing before releasing back to their natural environment.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad supervision and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable problems.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Species Specific (SPE)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>

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1. Identify reptiles	1.1 Define the habitat, activity cycle and general features of non-venomous reptiles commonly housed in facility 1.2 Identify and describe external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify reptiles according to taxonomy 1.4 Define, interpret and document colours, markings and other identifying features
2. Identify and evaluate behavioural and housing needs	2.1 Monitor water quality, heating and lighting and make adjustments to maintain the environment appropriate for the species being housed, as directed by supervisor 2.2 Recognise signs of distressed reptile, and report to supervisor 2.3 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities 2.4 Evaluate current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of reptiles kept and legislation requirements 2.5 Assess and implement enrichment activities for specific reptile species
3. Catch, handle and restrain reptiles	3.1 Identify workplace health and safety risks associated with handling and restraining reptiles 3.2 Implement methods to minimise safety risks and use appropriate personal protective equipment 3.3 Select and use appropriate equipment to catch, handle and restrain reptiles 3.4 Approach, catch and restrain non-venomous reptiles using low stress handling techniques to minimise risks to the animal and others
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in reptiles 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Implement general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures according to level of job responsibility
5. Feed reptiles	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to reptile-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred food sources and assess samples for quality and suitability 5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control

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<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	options 5.4 Prepare food in accordance with dietary needs 5.5 Distribute feed according to schedule or feeding plan
6. Maintain records	6.1 Complete feed and treatment records noting food consumption, health and care activities 6.2 Report abnormalities to supervisor 6.3 Complete documentation relevant to licences and transport, where required

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Interpret key information and quantities specified on product labels and in work instructions accurately
Numeracy	Measure quantities of food and/or health treatments accurately

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE321 Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles	ACMSPE311 Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles	Changed title Minor changes to performance criteria for clarity Assessment requirements updated	Equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>