



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMSPE322 Provide general care of rodents or rabbits

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 the physical and behavioural characteristics and needs of rodents and/or rabbits
- provided care for a minimum of two rabbits or two rodents, or one rabbit and one rodent, including for each:
 - demonstrated appropriate restraint and safe handling techniques
 - prepared and provided food and water
 - assisted with routine health care needs
 - maintained housing, bedding and enrichment
 - maintained feed and husbandry records.

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:

- basic anatomical structures and physiological features of rodents and/or rabbits
- basic identification and classification of common rodents and/or rabbits by breed, age and sex
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for rodents and/or rabbits
- housing, social and activity needs of rodents and/or rabbits, and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of physical condition of and signs of good health in rodents and/or rabbits
- basic overview of the rodent grimace scale to identify pain
- natural rodent and/or rabbit behaviour, including:
 - defensive and aggressive behaviours
 - submissive gestures

- breeding seasons
- species, breed, age and sex of the animals
- day or night activity
- characteristics associated with different species, including:
 - activity levels at certain times of day or night
 - social interaction
 - feeding behaviours
 - breeding season
 - enurination or spraying
- enrichment needs, including:
 - food or food-related enrichment
 - physical enrichment items
 - nest building or bedding material
 - social enrichment
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- safe, low stress rodent and/or rabbit handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures, including personal protective equipment
- types and impacts of food in rodent and/or rabbit diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species
- indicators of food quality, including nutritional value, freshness, shelf life, free from spoilage and pests
- types of information reported and recorded in animal care workplaces
- key requirements of Commonwealth and state/territory legislation, licensing and codes of practice related to captive animals, biosecurity and quarantine, health and safety and animal welfare
- principles of animal welfare and basic overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks or models, including the Five Domains.

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 rodents and/or rabbits as specified in performance evidence
 - equipment and resources typically available in an animal care facility, including personal protective equipment
- specifications:

- organisational policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant codes of practice
- relationships:
 - supervisor.

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>