



**Australian Government**

**Assessment Requirements for PUASAR018  
Select and maintain canines to be part of a  
canine search team for USAR incidents**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for PUASAR018 Select and maintain canines to be part of a canine search team for USAR incidents

## Modification History

**Release 1.** This is the first release of this unit of competency in the PUA Public Safety Training Package.

## Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements and performance criteria on at least one occasion and includes

- applying first aid techniques to canines including administering preventative or curative medicines and treatments to canines
- applying Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements
- assessing canines for desired characteristics and physical attributes for USAR work
- collecting, analysing and organising information to produce records and reports required by the organisation and animal welfare authorities
- developing and implementing a training plan based on identified needs
- following organisational policies and procedures
- interpreting actions and indications given by a canine
- maintaining living environment, training areas and canines to the required standard of hygiene
- maintaining records of search canine's health and welfare
- maintaining search canine's health
- managing search canine's hygiene and welfare
- monitoring diet and exercise regimes to maintain the health and welfare of canines
- observing and monitoring search canines in relation to their ability to work in a USAR environment
- providing recommendations on the health and welfare of search canines deployed in USAR incidents
- recognising symptoms of ill health and injury in canines
- seeking canine specialist advice including animal health care practitioner
- working independently and in teams to manage the hygiene and welfare of canines

## Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements and performance criteria and includes knowledge of

- anatomy and signs of health and/or ill health and injury of canines including canine anatomy,

- physiology of canines, psychology and behaviour of canines, canine developmental stages, canine grooming requirements and dietary and exercise requirements of working canines
- animal health and welfare regulations
  - canine search principles, methods and techniques
  - canine training plans, procedures and processes
  - capabilities of canines working within a USAR environment including typical characteristics and temperaments of various breeds of canines that are suited to working within the USAR environment and restricted canine breeds
  - first aid techniques that can be used to treat injured canines including common illnesses, diseases, parasites and other causes of ill health or injury affecting working canines
  - location of veterinarians and other authorities and specialists who can assist in the maintenance of the health and welfare of canines
  - organisational documentation including required records and reports
  - organisational policies and procedures including procedures and criteria for acquiring and retiring canines
  - preventative measures for controlling illnesses and parasites that can affect canines
  - work environment in which canines can be deployed including emergency deployment
  - Work, Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements including risk mitigation processes

## Assessment Conditions

As a minimum, assessors must satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, which include requirements in the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

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Assessment must occur in workplace operational situations where it is appropriate to do so; where this is not appropriate, assessment must occur in simulated workplace operational situations that replicate workplace conditions.

Assessment processes and techniques must be appropriate to the language, literacy and numeracy requirements of the work being performed and the needs of the candidate.

Resources for assessment must include access to

- a range of relevant exercises, case studies and/or simulations
- relevant and appropriate materials, equipment, tools and personal protective clothing and equipment currently used in industry including
  - canines training to work in a USAR environment
  - legislation, policy, procedures and guidelines relating to the health and welfare of canines
  - search canines
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operations manuals.

## **Links**

PUA Training Package Companion Volume Implementation Guide is found in VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=3eca5672-6d5a-410b-8942-810d0ba05bbf>