



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMADT403 Train dogs using operant and classical conditioning techniques

Release: 1

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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 a total of four dog and handler teams, assessing one behaviour in two sessions either one-to-one or in class group settings, and ensuring progress in suitable methodologies, allowable public settings and response to human verbal and/or visual cues
- discussed maintenance of health and welfare of dogs with four dog handlers
- 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, codes of practice, regulations and welfare requirements that apply to dog welfare
- operant and classical dog conditioning techniques, including:
 - extinction options (used only after reading a dog's emotions to monitor if a dog is ready considering fear and anxiety levels)
 - shaping behaviours
 - fading techniques
 - stretching the ration
 - positive reinforcement and negative punishment
 - reward schedules
- theoretical principles of dog training, including:
 - conditioning principles and appropriate methods of rewarding dogs for exhibiting required behaviour

- ethical and positive training methods that reinforce behaviour and maintain the working skills, happiness, enthusiasm and psychological welfare of the dog
- responses that dogs should give to verbal or visual cues
- behaviours associated with the age of a dog
- relevant dog physiology, including:
 - olfactory perception
 - eyesight
 - physical dexterity
- criteria to determine a dog's progress:
 - dog breeds and breed types, and associated characteristics and temperaments
 - a dog's emotional maturity
 - a dog's temperament
 - dog and handler team or partnership interactions and requirements
- public access requirements
- awareness of how to enrich a dog's physical, emotional and mental health and lifestyle needs
- stress signals displayed by dogs, including:
 - sniffing
 - lip licking
 - individual dog body language that denotes stress
- biosecurity requirements
- provision for appropriate veterinary care and preventative health treatments
- workplace health and safety procedures and principles, 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 Performance Evidence
- specifications:
 - workplace policies and procedures
- relationships:
 - 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>