



Australian Government

ACMAIM204 Participate in companion animal rescue

Release: 1

ACMAIM204 Participate in companion animal rescue

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 6.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to safely participate in a team responding to companion animals during incidents.

The unit applies to individuals who work or volunteer to assist in companion animal incident actions. They work with others to safely participate and respond to a range of incidents involving the rescue of companion animals that may be compromised or distressed.

All work must be carried out to comply with Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Animal Incident Management (AIM)

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. Respond to an incident involving companion animals	1.1 Assess incident and contribute to risk assessment to people and companion animals 1.2 Participate in team briefing about incident action plan, objectives and own role 1.3 Confirm and clarify incident controller instructions about own role and tasks 1.4 Discuss behaviour risks and control strategies associated with companion animal species at the incident 1.5 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for risk and response 1.6 Prepare rescue requirements according to workplace health and safety and biosecurity guidelines
2. Carry out allocated role and duties at incident	2.1 Perform allocated tasks and role according to chain of command based on the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) 2.2 Monitor and anticipate companion animal behaviour and maintain situational awareness 2.3 Assist with minimising hazards, ensuring safety zones are maintained and escape routes identified

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3. Assist with basic companion animal handling	3.1 Approach companion animals safely and using appropriate handling methods, in a manner that minimises stress 3.2 Catch or contain companion animals using safe handling and basic restraint and fear-free methods 3.3 Communicate with team to assist with animal extraction according to own role
4. Assist with post-incident activities	4.1 Assist with reuniting companion animals with owners, moving animals to a safe holding area and/or handling deceased animals appropriately and according to instructions 4.2 Clean, decontaminate and store PPE and other equipment used at the incident according to workplace policies and procedures 4.3 Report information required by relevant personnel according to incident action plan and regulatory requirements 4.4 Participate in incident debrief with team

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
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Skill	Description
Oral communication	• Listen attentively and ask questions to confirm or clarify information using appropriate technical terminology • Use clear, precise language and tone appropriate for situation and audience

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMAIM204 Participate in companion animal rescue	Not applicable	This unit has been created to address a skill or task required by industry that is not covered by an existing unit	Newly created

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>

Assessment Requirements for ACMAIM204 Participate in companion animal rescue

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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 participated in a team responding to two different incident scenarios involving companion animals, taking on a different allocated rescue participation role based on the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) in each scenario.

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:

- incident types involving rescue of companion animals, including:
 - floods
 - fires
 - earthquakes
 - extreme weather events
 - human-induced hazards
 - day-to-day incidents involving rescue of companion animals
 - occurrences that can be resolved by local resources
 - occurrences that are likely to entail inter/intra-state and possibly international resources for major incidents
- regulations and codes of practices:
 - safety and biosecurity guidelines
 - emergency and animal welfare regulatory requirements with exemptions if required
- participation role in incident action plan to relocate companion animals, including:
 - methods, resources and transport requirements
 - contingency plans
 - incident risk factors

- shelters
- requirement for communication with incident landowner/manager
- key features of incident management system, including:
 - chain of command, roles and communication
 - awareness of Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)
 - basic principles of working in a team at an incident
 - incident risk factors to people and companion animals, and escalation processes
 - basic sequence and steps to follow in a companion animal incident
 - incident zones (hot, warm and cold) and personnel allowed in each
 - safe zones related to animals
 - briefing and debriefing the incident, including critical incident stress monitoring
 - self-care techniques
- factors affecting the movement of animals, including:
 - fitness to be moved or to travel
 - species-specific needs and behaviours
- safe working practices around companion animals
- empathetic communication techniques with companion animal owners
- techniques, equipment and risks associated with a range of incidents
- types of equipment and how to use, including:
 - equipment for safe rescue and transportation of companion animals
 - personal protective equipment (PPE)
- identification and disposal methods and procedures for deceased animals
- companion animal containment requirements and design of holding areas and temporary shelter
- when to seek appropriate animal first aid and veterinary care according to action plan
- companion animal rescue workplace health and safety procedures
- methods used to identify animals (with the availability of a microchip reader), and record-keeping requirements
- animal feed, including specialised feed for special requirements of different species, animals at different stage of life, and recently whelped litters
- longer-term housing options for rescued companion animals
- animal welfare practices related to the rescue of companion animals.

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 a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions or an incident – this includes the use of simulations and scenarios where assessment would be unsafe, impractical or unethical
- resources, equipment and materials:

- regulations relating to incident planning
- animal welfare regulations
- personal protective equipment (PPE)
- animal mannequin/s, equipment and incident scenarios to address the performance evidence requirements
- specifications:
 - workplace policies and procedures
- relationships:
 - team members
 - companion animals
 - companion animal owners.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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