



**Australian Government**

# **ACMAIM312 Perform companion animal rescue**

**Release: 1**

# ACMAIM312 Perform 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 extricate companion animals during incidents.

The unit applies to individuals who work as responders in a team to participate in companion animal incident actions. They exercise judgement to complete a range of skilled activities responding to animal incidents in a rescue team environment and in applying animal handling and manipulation techniques.

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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1. Prepare for incident response                 | 1.1 Assess incident situations and risks to people and companion animals, and discuss risk control strategies with team members<br>1.2 Determine appropriate techniques and equipment for incident type and welfare requirements of the animals, in consultation with others<br>1.3 Participate in team briefing about the incident plan, objectives and |

| Elements                                         | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                  | team roles, including clarifying own role<br>1.4 Check workplace health and safety, biosecurity and risk requirements in relation to own role                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2. Prepare for companion animals' extrication    | 2.1 Select and fit required personal protective equipment (PPE)<br>2.2 Organise support equipment and supplies as instructed<br>2.3 Locate, inspect and prepare manual and mechanical equipment required to extricate companion animal<br>2.4 Assist with set-up of temporary incident zones, planned release area for animal and identified escape routes<br>2.5 Establish roles and action depending on Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)<br>2.6 Cooperate and communicate clearly with team members to ensure safety of team and bystanders and to maintain animal welfare |
| 3. Extricate companion animals                   | 3.1 Observe and anticipate behavioural characteristics of companion animal species, and prepare appropriate handling methods and equipment<br>3.2 Approach companion animals safely and in a manner that minimises stress<br>3.3 Catch and contain companion animals using safe handling and low-stress basic restraint and controlling methods<br>3.4 Communicate with team and/or owners regarding processes to allow safe access and provision for first aid<br>3.5 Assess and monitor animal behaviour to ensure safety and animal welfare and maintain situational awareness at all stages           |
| 4. Transport companion animal                    | 4.1 Assist with taking companion animals to safety in a transport vehicle if required<br>4.2 Assist with the transportation of companion animals to the planned location<br>4.3 Release companion animals in a planned enclosure to be treated or monitored during recovery phase                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5. Communicate with owners of companion animals  | 5.1 Inform owners about whereabouts of their companion animals, if not already reunited<br>5.2 Provide owners with updates as appropriate<br>5.3 Inform owners about deceased companion animals if required, and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Elements                                         | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                  | make suitable arrangements for the remains according to workplace and legislative requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6. Conclude actions                              | 6.1 Recover, clean and store equipment according to workplace procedures and biosecurity requirements<br>6.2 Remove waste and debris according to workplace procedures<br>6.3 Participate in incident debrief with team<br>6.4 Complete required records or reports according to workplace procedures |

## 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Writing            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use accurate industry and emergency services or regulatory terminology when completing records</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Oral communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen attentively and ask questions to confirm or clarify information using appropriate technical terminology</li> <li>Use clear, precise language and tone appropriate for situation and audience to work collectively as an effective team member with a sense of responsibility and ownership of agreed plans, decisions and outcomes</li> </ul> |

## Unit Mapping Information

| Code and title current version               | Code and title previous version | Comments                                                                                                           | Equivalence status |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ACMAIM312<br>Perform 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 ACMAIM312 Perform 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 prepared for the extrication of two different companion animal species and performed a rescue or extrication in three different incident scenarios.

## 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 the 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
- incident action plan for moving companion animals
- critical incident companion animal evacuation processes and emergency requirements
- key features of incident management, including:
  - allocating roles of team members
  - chain of command and communication
  - awareness of Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)
  - modes of communication
  - basic principles of working in a team at an incident

- 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
- post-incident activities
- incident risk factors for people and companion animals, and potential for escalation
- 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
- requirement for communication with incident landowner/manager
- 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)
- suitable methods and equipment for moving animals, including:
  - basic animal anatomy and behaviour
  - handling and restraint methods and how to lift to avoid injuries
  - moving techniques
  - leading and walking
  - transport vehicle types
  - choice of route
- resources required to carry out the activity, including personnel
- disposal methods and procedures for deceased animals
- companion animal containment requirements of holding areas and temporary evacuation site, including:
  - fencing, ropes, cages
  - separation between species (prey or predator) to minimise stress and recovery
  - separation from human activities
  - improvised equipment
  - quarantine and biosecurity requirements
  - noise minimisation/control
- 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
- emergency and animal welfare regulatory requirements, with exemptions if required
- nutrition that satisfies species, life stage, physical/medical requirements and recently whelped litters

- longer-term housing options for rescued companion animals
- animal welfare practices related to companion animal rescue.

## 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
  - animal mannequin/s, equipment and incident scenarios to address the performance evidence requirements
  - personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 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.

## Links

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