



Australian Government

ACMATE305 Conduct euthanasia of research animals

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct the euthanasing of research animals under supervision.

The unit applies to individuals who are employed as junior or assistant level animal technicians working with and caring for animals used within an animal technology biomedical research or production environment for scientific purposes and teaching purposes where it may be necessary to euthanase individual or groups of animals because of a range of reasons approved by the institution's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). Individuals work under the supervision of a senior or more experienced staff member and must ensure animals are handled gently and calmly, and must exhibit appropriate care for animals so that stress and discomfort is minimised.

Animal technicians conducting euthanasia operate under and must comply with legislative requirements and the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, as well as protocols, policies and procedures set down by the institution's AEC.

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

NOTE: The terms 'occupational health and safety' (OHS) and 'work health and safety' (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Animal Technology (ATE)

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 to conduct euthanasia of research animal	1.1 Identify, justify and report need for euthanasia 1.2 Ensure method selected for the euthanasia is consistent with the research program approval or protocol 1.3 Prepare euthanasia equipment and materials 1.4 Select location for the euthanasia 1.5 Identify associated euthanasia hazards according to WHS procedures and guidelines 1.6 Review and complete licences and permits required to conduct the euthanasia with the supervisor
2. Carry out the euthanasia of animals	2.1 Use personal protective and safety equipment according to WHS policies and statutory requirements 2.2 Handle and transport equipment according to statutory requirements and industry practices 2.3 Assist with the physical restraining of animals to minimise pain, distress and risk of injury to the animals or personnel and complies with animal welfare, ethical and legal requirements 2.4 Apply euthanasia method according to the requirements of the task and as instructed
3. Complete the euthanasia of animals	3.1 Confirm animal deaths 3.2 Handle and move carcasses that are required for research or post-mortem examination according to experimental and WHS requirements 3.3 Dispose of biological waste and animal carcasses that are not required for research or other approved purposes according to WHS procedures and legislative requirements 3.4 Decontaminate or clean, and store or dispose of, equipment and materials 3.5 Update records relating to euthanased animals according to workplace policies and 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
Numeracy	Calculate solutions, dilutions, body weights and dose rates
Oral communication	Listen carefully to instructions from supervisor and ask clarifying questions as required

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMATE305 Conduct euthanasia of research animals	ACMATE305A Conduct euthanasia of research animals	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages	Equivalent unit

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 ACMATE305 Conduct euthanasia of research animals

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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 carried out euthanasia of research animals at least three times, including:

- ensured that the euthanasing of research animals is completed in a humane, rapid and appropriate manner for the approved endpoint
- prepared and maintained required materials and equipment
- disposed of animal carcasses and biological waste not required for research or post-mortem purposes according to statutory requirements
- decontaminated, cleaned and stored equipment and materials or disposed of them according to industry standards
- used appropriate coping mechanisms to deal with personal distress or grief.

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:

- principles and practices of research animal euthanasia
- anatomical terminology, structures and physiological features of animals in research facilities
- anatomy and physiology of animals commonly held in the institution, especially the neck and head, and respiration and heart rates
- physical conditions, vital signs of animals as well as signs of pain and distress in commonly held species
- biohazards in the workplace of significance to animals and humans
- equipment and drugs commonly used for euthanasia
- firearm legislation, regulations and techniques related to the humane destruction of animals if required
- methods and administration routes of euthanasia and their suitability for a range of species
- methods used to cope with distress and grief due to workplace duties

- organisational policies and safe work procedures, including WHS and accident requirements
- animal welfare and ethics
- protocols, legal and ethical considerations in the euthanasing of animals
- requirements of legislation, regulations, standards and codes of practice relevant to work undertaken in an animal technology environment in relation to the euthanasia of research animals
- safe animal handling techniques and procedures.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in an animal technology workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - research animals to be euthanased.

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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