



Australian Government

ACMATE402 Conduct euthanasia of research animals

Release: 1

ACMATE402 Conduct euthanasia of research animals

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct euthanasia or humane killing of research animals using approved methods.

The unit applies to individuals who are required to work with and care for animals used within scientific establishments for scientific purposes and teaching.

All work practices must be undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements, the current Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (the Code), the organisation's standard operating procedures, and protocols, policies and procedures approved by the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). Users are advised to check legislative requirements for their jurisdiction.

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 or humane killing of research animal	1.1 Identify, justify and report need for euthanasia or humane killing 1.2 Identify and use AEC approved method appropriate for species and research outcomes 1.3 Prepare equipment and materials for euthanasia or humane killing 1.4 Select location for the euthanasia or humane killing

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.5 Identify hazards associated with euthanasia or humane killing according to health and safety procedures and guidelines
2. Carry out the euthanasia or humane killing of animals	2.1 Use personal protective and safety equipment according to health and safety policies and statutory requirements 2.2 Handle and transport equipment according to statutory requirements and industry practices 2.3 Handle and restrain animals to minimise pain, distress and risk of injury to the animals or personnel according to animal welfare, ethical and legal requirements 2.4 Apply approved euthanasia or humane killing method according to the requirements of the task
3. Complete the euthanasia or humane killing of animals	3.1 Confirm animal deaths according to approved indicators of death 3.2 Handle and move carcasses that are required for research or post-mortem examination according to organisational experimental and health and safety requirements 3.3 Store or dispose of samples, waste and animal carcasses according to health and safety organisational procedures and legislative requirements 3.4 Decontaminate or clean, and store or dispose of, equipment, materials and drugs 3.5 Update records relating to animals that have been euthanased or humanely killed 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
ACMATE402 Conduct euthanasia of research animals	ACMATE305 Conduct euthanasia of research animals	Unit recoded to better reflect level of activity and responsibility Minor changes to performance criteria and knowledge evidence for clarity and use of correct terminology PC 1.6 removed Revised performance evidence to reduce duplication with performance criteria	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 ACMATE402 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 or humane killing of at least one live research animal and demonstrated three simulations using a humane, rapid and appropriate manner for the approved endpoint
- prepared and maintained required materials, equipment and drugs
- stored and/or disposed of animal carcasses and biological waste according to organisational policies, procedures and legislative requirements
- decontaminated, cleaned and stored equipment and materials or disposed of them according to organisational procedures.

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 and humane killing
- definition of humane endpoint, euthanasia and humane killing
- anatomical terminology, structures and basic physiological features of animals in research facilities
- anatomy and physiology of animals commonly held in the facility, especially the neck and head, and respiration and heart rates
- physical conditions and vital signs of animals, as well as signs of pain and distress in commonly held species
- indicators of death in animals
- biohazards in the workplace of significance to animals and humans
- equipment and drugs commonly used for euthanasia or humane killing
- firearm legislation, regulations and techniques related to the humane destruction of animals if required

- safe animal handling techniques and procedures,
- approved species-specific methods of euthanasia or humane killing, including:
 - routes of administration or techniques used
 - impact on research
- strategies to minimise mental health and wellbeing issues associated with animal death and techniques used for euthanasia and humane killing
- organisational policies and safe work procedures, including accident requirements
- animal welfare and ethics related to euthanasia and humane killing of animals used for scientific research
- protocols, legal and ethical considerations in animal euthanasia/humane killing for research purposes
- key requirements of legislation, regulations, guidelines and the Code relevant to work undertaken in an animal technology environment in relation to the euthanasia and humane killing of research animals.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in an animal technology laboratory or an environment which accurately represents workplace conditions.
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - research animals
 - species-appropriate equipment and materials needed for euthanasia or humane killing.

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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