



Australian Government

ACMATE511 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal

Release: 1

ACMATE511 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal

Modification History

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

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct a post-mortem examination of a research animal for scientific purposes. Post-mortem examinations may be subject to biosecurity and quarantine regulatory and organisational requirements.

This 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 the post-mortem examination	1.1 Identify, select and prepare appropriate site for the post-mortem according to facility and containment classification 1.2 Identify containment issues and health and safety risks and take or recommend appropriate action to protect self and others

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.3 Obtain and prepare correct clothing, equipment and resources to be used in the post-mortem examination 1.4 Use appropriate manual lifting techniques to move the animal to be examined to the post-mortem area 1.5 Confirm indicators of death in animals 1.6 Confirm identity and obtain and collate all relevant preliminary information about the animal to be examined 1.7 Identify abnormal characteristics that may indicate the presence of notifiable and potentially hazardous conditions or diseases, and take or recommend appropriate action 1.8 Identify industry expert assistance, and access as appropriate
2. Carry out the post-mortem examination	2.1 Carry out external assessment of the animal and record outward signs of abnormalities or injury 2.2 Dissect animal using appropriate techniques and equipment to avoid cutting into organs or stomach cavity 2.3 Examine nominated organs, tissues and structures 2.4 Take and prepare samples of organs, other tissues and fluid samples where appropriate without causing damage to tissues
3. Identify and handle a range of body parts in research animals	3.1 Locate, identify and handle integument and facial structures 3.2 Locate, identify and handle musculoskeletal structures 3.3 Locate, identify and handle digestive system structures and organs 3.4 Locate, identify and handle reproductive system, organs and structures 3.5 Locate, identify and handle other structures and organs relevant to post-mortem procedures conducted in the facility
4. Complete the post-mortem examination	4.1 Dispose of carcass using appropriate equipment according to animal research practices and waste disposal legislation and regulations 4.2 Correctly label and package samples for analysis according to organisational procedures 4.3 Collate records of observations and information about the animal examined for relevant persons to analyse and diagnose 4.4 Clean and disinfect post-mortem area and equipment according to organisational procedures and biosecurity requirements where

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	applicable

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
Reading	Read and interpret relevant codes of practice and organisational procedures
Get the work done	Perform a post-mortem examination to ensure effectiveness in meeting timelines and work schedules

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMATE511 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal	ACMATE503 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal	New element added Minor changes to performance criteria and knowledge evidence for clarity Revised performance evidence to reduce duplication with performance criteria	No 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 ACMATE511 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0.
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

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:

- prepared for and carried out at least two post-mortem examinations of research animals
- collated records and data and prepared a brief or report of normal and abnormal findings for relevant persons for each post-mortem examination.

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 for carrying out post-mortem examination of research animals
- animal biology, anatomy and basic physiology of the range of species in the organisation's research program, including the position, features and appearance of major organs in healthy animals of the species being examined
- basic anatomical and physiological features for the species being examined
- terminology and formats to document findings in post-mortem examinations
- sequence of actions in conducting a post-mortem
- relevance of background or phenotype and how these impact on post-mortem findings
- biosecurity and biohazard issues (for animals and humans), including:
 - definitions of biosecurity, biohazard, quarantine and isolation
 - post-mortem examination and the collection and disposal of samples from animals
 - facility classification and biocontainment levels
- methods and equipment used to collect and prepare tissue and fluid samples for transport to testing area

- organisational policies and safe work procedures, including work health and safety (WHS) and emergency procedures
- key features of the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes relevant to carrying out post-mortems
- key requirements of relevant state or territory legislation and regulations, relating to conducting post-mortem examinations
- requirements for the correct preparation, labelling, packaging and disposal of biological and potentially hazardous samples
- specific post-mortem and biosecurity clean-up and disposal techniques, equipment and materials
- workplace hygiene standards, disinfectants, and cleaning agents, techniques and equipment and materials.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills 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
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - equipment and resources used when conducting a post-mortem examination, including personal protective equipment
 - research animals for post-mortem examination
- specifications:
 - organisational policies and procedures, legislation, regulations, standards and codes of practice relevant to work undertaken in animal research.

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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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>