



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMBEH501 Work collaboratively to manage complex animal behaviour

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.

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:

- researched strategies to address at least three different animal behavioural issues, selected from:
 - fear
 - anxiety
 - aggression towards humans or other animals
 - predation
 - behaviour problem with another medical basis
 - repetitive behaviours (stereotypies)
 - reactivity
- developed, implemented and evaluated a training and behaviour change plan to address the three different behavioural issues selected above, including:
 - one working collaboratively with a behaviour veterinarian or other qualified professional
 - one working directly with an individual client.

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:

- professional ethics for work in animal training and behaviour sector, including:
 - personal competency – knowledge and expertise
 - business ethics, informed consent and confidentiality
 - protocols for working with other qualified professionals
 - use of humane, ethical, scientifically validated methodologies and techniques

- professional networks and mentoring options
- range of qualified professionals with specialised skills, including:
 - behaviour veterinarian, including a veterinarian with an interest in animal behaviour or a veterinarian with Membership to Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (MANZCVS)
 - registered Specialist in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine (SVBM)
 - animal physiotherapist
- key concepts of species-specific ethology, animal social behaviour
- species-specific animal body language and behavioural signs, including:
 - signs of stress
 - gross and fine body movement and vocalisation (where relevant)
 - patterns of behaviour, including frequency, duration and intensity
 - general overview of triggers, motivating factors and reinforcers
- signs of emotional states/arousal and their social and environmental triggers, including:
 - concept of anthropomorphism
 - social behavioural signs with animals and people
 - signs indicating an animal is presenting an unreasonable risk to itself or people, and what to do in these cases
- basic physiology, including stress physiology; threat perception and coping behaviours; impulsivity and other aspects of animal personality
- key concepts of animal learning, conditioning and training:
 - associative learning – operant and classical conditioning, including extinction, desensitisation and counter-conditioning and differential reinforcement
 - non-associative – habituation and sensitisation
 - primary and secondary reinforcers
 - schedules of reinforcement
- species or breed specific training requirements and considerations
- positive reinforcement conditioning techniques, including luring, targeting, and shaping (prompted and free)
- importance of management of the animal's environment, health and behaviour, including:
 - awareness of the effect of domesticated/captive/urbanised lifestyles on natural behaviour needs
 - providing species-specific basic needs in domesticated/captive/urbanised environments
 - impact of medical problems and chronic pain on animal behaviour
 - awareness of use of medication in behaviour management
- overview of key features of guidelines for animal trainers, including:
 - Least Intrusive Effective Behaviour Intervention (LIEBI model)
 - Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) training
 - Hierarchy of Procedures for Humane and Effective Practice
- how to format, conduct and analyse assessments on the animal, the client/animal relationship and the environment in which the behaviour occurs

- formats for documenting training and behaviour management plans
- application of the principles of animal welfare and ethics, including:
 - safe, low stress and defensive animal handling and humane restraint techniques and procedures
 - commonly used animal training equipment.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an animal care workplace
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live animals as required in the performance evidence
- relationships:
 - behaviour veterinarian or other qualified professional, and individual client specified in the performance evidence.

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

Links

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