



Australian Government

ACMCAN304 Prepare and maintain animal housing

Release: 1

ACMCAN304 Prepare and maintain animal housing

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 determine housing needs for particular animal species. It includes preparation, cleaning and routine tasks required to maintain the hygiene and appearance of an enclosure or exhibit.

This unit applies to wildlife animal keepers or carers who are required to take responsibility for their own work with limited responsibility for other workers and volunteers.

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

Captive Animals (CAN)

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 housing appropriate to a particular species	1.1 Identify behavioural and physical requirements of the species 1.2 Identify animal enclosures appropriate for specific species 1.3 Identify and assess enclosure furniture requirements for the species

Elements	Performance Criteria
	1.4 Prepare animal housing for species-specific requirements
2. Implement animal housing maintenance routines	2.1 Identify enclosure maintenance activities and determine if they are daily, weekly or longer term tasks 2.2 Identify and follow procedures relating to the wellbeing of animals during maintenance activities 2.3 Follow enclosure and exhibit security and safety procedures 2.4 Maintain aesthetic qualities and furniture of enclosures and exhibits 2.5 Report areas requiring horticultural or maintenance attention 2.6 Establish responsibility levels for horticultural or maintenance tasks and work schedule timelines in consultation with supervisor
3. Maintain enclosure hygiene and appearance	3.1 Prepare, implement and review cleaning regime for a section 3.2 Clean enclosures, equipment and furniture with minimum disturbance to animals 3.3 Detect and report pests 3.4 Assist with environmentally safe and effective pest control 3.5 Maintain tools and equipment 3.6 Report and record enclosure and exhibit maintenance status

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	Interpret information from everyday workplace documentation on captive animal housing and animal welfare
Writing	Accurately complete reports and records on enclosure and exhibit maintenance status, and pests found in enclosures
Oral communication	Use questioning and listening techniques to exchange and clarify information
Numeracy	- Collect and record numerical data in organisational information management systems - Calculate correct quantities of routine workplace measures

Skill	Description
Get the work done	Problem-solve to use available resources and prioritise daily tasks

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMCAN304 Prepare and maintain animal housing	ACMCAN304A Prepare and maintain animal housing	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 ACMCAN304 Prepare and maintain animal housing

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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 maintained housing for at least two different captive animals, including:

- identified the physical and behavioural requirements of each captive animal
- identified the enclosure and enclosure furniture requirements for each animal
- carried out routine maintenance activities with minimal disturbance to animal
- followed safe work procedures
- accurately recorded and reported enclosure maintenance information.

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:

- requirements of different types of animal enclosures, including:
 - aquaria
 - aviaries
 - cages
 - habitat boxes
 - paddocks
 - walk-through or closed-off enclosures
- behavioural requirements of captive animals, including:
 - environments that replicate normal feeding behaviour
 - environments that provide appropriate stimulation for the animals
 - normal activity patterns:
 - crepuscular
 - diurnal

- nocturnal
- physical requirements:
 - appropriate space and/or features based on whether animal is arboreal, terrestrial or aquatic
 - appropriate substrate
 - temperature and humidity regimes
- appropriate furniture for different animal enclosures, including:
 - shading, shelters, walkways and behavioural enrichment features:
 - branches, logs, rocks and vines
 - landscaping
 - vegetation
 - water features
- appropriate enclosure security maintenance, including:
 - checking for pests within animal housing or enclosures
 - checking there are no unauthorised people in animal enclosures
 - checking that locks and slides are in good working order
 - considering compatibility of species and breeds within housing
 - ensuring animals are safe and secure in their housing
 - identifying any animal housing faults that may result in escape
 - maintaining structures in good order
- WHS risks when handling captive animals, including:
 - animal bites, envenomation, kicks, scratches and crush injuries if working in with the animal or the animal has potential to reach keeper through barriers
 - biological hazardous waste and sharps disposal
 - handling of chemicals and medicines
 - inhalation of aerosol particles
 - intraocular contamination
 - manual handling, including carrying, lifting and shifting
 - moving parts of machinery or equipment
 - noise, including machinery and some animals
 - repetitive strain injury
 - slippery or uneven work surfaces
 - zoonoses
- safe usage of maintenance equipment, including:
 - blowers
 - cleaning agents
 - mowers
 - pressure cleaners
 - rakes and spades
 - secateurs

- wheelbarrows
- whipper snippers
- pest identification and associated risks and controls
- the principles of animal welfare and ethics
- safe animal handling techniques and procedures with respect to ‘shifting’ animals if and when required for enclosure maintenance
- workplace hygiene standards, disinfectants, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials and associated workplace health and safety.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately reflects work undertaken in a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - equipment and resources used when working in a captive animal facility
 - personal protective equipment suitable for handling and working with captive animals
 - a range of captive animals
- specifications:
 - the facility’s policies and procedures, including captive animal interaction and emergency procedures.

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>