



Australian Government

ACMCAS305 Maintain aquascapes and aquatic animals

Release: 1

ACMCAS305 Maintain aquascapes and aquatic animals

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 monitor illness and abnormal behaviour in aquatic animals; and to collect and analyse water samples and administer treatments.

This unit applies to individuals working in the companion animal industry sector. It relates to the maintenance of aquascapes and aquatic animals, including fish, amphibians and some reptiles. This unit applies to individuals who take responsibility for their own work and for the quality of the work of others. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.

No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to 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

Companion Animal Sector (CAS)

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. Follow effective personal health	1.1 Maintain personal hygiene and cleanliness standards according to

Elements	Performance Criteria
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management practices	WHS and workplace policies and procedures 1.2 Identify disease agents and their impact on aquatic animals 1.3 Implement work practices to protect self from, and minimise spread of, zoonotic diseases
2. Identify unhealthy aquatic animals	2.1 Identify unhealthy aquatic animals and record information according to workplace policies and procedures 2.2 Identify injured aquatic animals and report to supervisors 2.3 Identify abnormal behaviour and condition in aquatic animals and report to supervisors 2.4 Maintain records for unhealthy aquatic animals according to workplace policies and procedures
3. Sample, analyse and adjust aquascape water quality	3.1 Collect water samples using appropriate equipment according to workplace policies and procedures 3.2 Test samples using appropriate equipment and according to manufactures directions 3.3 Record sampling results according to workplace policies and procedures 3.4 Adjust water quality to better suit the requirements of the aquascape and species 3.5 Maintain optimum water quality records for the aquascape and species according to industry requirements
4. Administer aquatic animal treatments	4.1 Identify broad categories of parasitic infestations and viral, fungal and bacterial diseases 4.2 Administer appropriate and authorised aquatic animal treatments 4.3 Implement preventative medicine programs for internal and external parasites 4.4 Store treatments and medicines appropriately 4.5 Maintain records for treatments and medicine programs according to workplace policies and procedures and legislative requirements

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	Access information about aquatic animal disease and behaviour
Numeracy	- Use tables, graphs or other techniques to document trends and changes in sampling data over time - Measure volumes and calculate ratios to achieve correct concentration of chemicals to adjust the aquascape

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMCAS305 Maintain aquascapes and aquatic animals	ACMCAS305A Maintain aquascapes and aquatic 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 ACMCAS305 Maintain aquascapes and aquatic 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:

- maintained at least three different aquascapes, including at least three different types of aquatic animals, ensuring the optimal health of those animals
- collected and tested at least two water samples and adjusted water quality to suit the aquascape and species requirements
- administered appropriate and authorised aquatic animal treatments on at least one occasion
- maintained records and required documentation for treatments and medicine programs.

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:

- animal welfare and ethics
- appropriate and authorised aquatic animal treatments
- basic aquatic animal biology
- broad categories of parasitic infestations and viral, fungal and bacterial diseases
- chemicals used to correct water conditions and the water quality of aquascapes
- ideal water conditions and quality for a range of aquatic animals, including pH, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, salinity, calcium and hardness
- normal and abnormal behaviour of aquatic species
- relevant WHS and animal welfare legislative requirements and codes of practice, including environmental regulations
- preventative medicine programs for internal and external parasites
- principles and practices of aquascapes and aquatic animal maintenance
- signs of common aquatic animal diseases and parasitic infestations and their transmission between aquatic animals

- water quality adjustment procedures, including water chemistry
- water sampling, testing and analysis procedures and techniques
- zoonotic diseases.

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:
 - a range of different types of aquatic animals
 - sufficient materials and equipment to create and maintain aquascapes
 - chemicals to test and treat water quality.

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

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