



Australian Government

ACMCAS409 Provide training advice to companion animal owners

Release: 1

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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 develop, conduct and review training plans and programs for companion animals for their owners.

This unit applies to individuals working in the companion animal industry sector where training is required to modify undesirable behaviour traits for a range of breeds and species. This includes training conducted in group or one-on-one sessions with animals and their owners (clients) that takes place in public open spaces, in private residences or at agreed alternative venues. These individuals analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of skilled activities and demonstrate deep knowledge in a specific technical area. They have accountability for the work of others and analyse, design and communicate solutions to a range of complex problems.

No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

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. Determine client's needs	1.1 Discuss and determine training needs with client 1.2 Conduct initial assessment of animal

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 Set short- and medium-term goals in conjunction with client 1.4 Offer referral to an animal behaviourist or other relevant persons if required
2. Develop training plans	2.1 Research behavioural traits and conditioning strategies for a range of breeds 2.2 Determine training strategies to achieve desirable behaviours for a range of breeds 2.3 Develop training plans to achieve desirable behaviours for a range of breeds
3. Conduct training	3.1 Select and use appropriate training equipment according to training plan 3.2 Explain initial training to client 3.3 Conduct training according to industry standards, animal welfare and ethics requirements 3.4 Maintain, hygienically clean and store training equipment according to workplace policies and procedures and manufacturers' guidelines
4. Conduct ongoing assessments	4.1 Review progress of animal according to training plan and discuss with client 4.2 Review training plan and modify accordingly 4.3 Maintain training records according to industry standards
5. Instruct client in ongoing management	5.1 Discuss strategies to achieve short- and medium-term conditioning objectives 5.2 Provide advice on longer-term objectives to client 5.3 Provide advice to client on training plans, including dietary requirements, behavioural enrichment, exercise and maintenance

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
Oral communication	• Explain concepts to people unfamiliar with those concepts, in terms that they understand • Use open-ended questioning, active listening and paraphrases • Sequence information logically for easy understanding
Writing	• Write training plans and strategies that can be followed by clients
Reading	• Research behaviours associated with breeds

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMCAS409 Provide training advice to companion animal owners	ACMCAS409A Provide training advice to companion animal owners	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 ACMCAS409 Provide training advice to companion animal owners

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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:

- provided training advice to three owners of companion animals
- communicated effectively with clients on three occasions to determine animal and client needs and provided advice and assistance
- evaluated behaviour, signs and objective measures that may indicate animal health is at risk
- handled and restrained animals appropriately and humanely
- identified and implemented a variety of scientifically recognised behaviour modification techniques, including the effect of positive and negative reinforcement
- researched and determined training strategies to achieve desirable behaviours
- selected, used and maintained appropriate and humane training equipment
- supervised the training of animals in accordance with training plans
- used and maintained training equipment, including restraint devices
- used safe manual handling techniques and equipment.

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 dietary, exercise and maintenance requirements
- basic animal anatomy and physiology related to companion animal behaviour management requirements
- behaviour modification techniques and conditioning strategies
- humane training techniques for a range of animals and training requirements
- animal welfare and ethics
- normal and abnormal animal behaviour relating to the characteristics of the species, age, health status and social needs

- safe animal handling and restraint techniques and procedures
- safe work practices
- training strategies and plans
- waste management strategies
- the types of disinfectants, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials used in a companion animal workplace
- the standards, guidelines and approaches to environmental sustainability relevant to the animal care industry
- common animals and breeds, their typical behavioural traits and temperaments
- commonly used animal training equipment and its use.

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:
 - live companion animals
 - equipment for training and restraining animals
- relationships:
 - interactions with real clients/customers or realistic scenarios or roleplays.

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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