



Australian Government

ACMEXH303 Prepare and maintain animal habitats

Release: 1

ACMEXH303 Prepare and maintain animal habitats

Modification History

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

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to determine housing needs for animal species. It includes preparation, cleaning and routine tasks required to maintain the hygiene, safety and appearance of animal habitats, typically an enclosure or exhibit.

This unit applies to individuals who work in animal carer, keeper or aquarist roles, undertaking individual and team activities in small to large scale animal facilities. They perform work under broad direction and are required to take responsibility for their own work, including carrying out assigned tasks, organising processes and working to schedules.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Exhibited Animals (EXH)

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 species-specific housing	1.1 Identify behavioural, physical and social requirements of the species

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
or habitats	1.2 Identify safety and security requirements of animal enclosure for specific species 1.3 Identify and assess enclosure furniture and enrichment requirements for species 1.4 Prepare animal housing appropriate for species requirements
2. Implement animal housing maintenance routines	2.1 Identify and follow schedule for enclosure maintenance activities 2.2 Follow procedures for managing security and safety and animal wellbeing during maintenance activities 2.3 Maintain aesthetic qualities and furniture of enclosures or exhibits 2.4 Report areas requiring horticultural or maintenance attention 2.5 Confirm 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 or individual enclosure or exhibit 3.2 Use and correctly fit personal protective equipment for cleaning, hygiene and infection control 3.3 Clean enclosures, equipment and furniture with minimum disturbance to animals 3.4 Detect and report pests according to facility procedures 3.5 Assist with environmentally safe and effective pest control 3.6 Maintain tools and equipment in safe working condition 3.7 Report and record enclosure or 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 facility procedures on animal housing
Writing	Complete workplace documentation using appropriate language

Skill	Description
	and terminology for enclosure or exhibit maintenance
Oral communication	Use questioning and listening techniques to exchange and clarify information
Numeracy	Collect and record numerical data in facility information management systems

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEXH303 Prepare and maintain animal habitats	ACMCAN304 Prepare and maintain animal housing	Changed title Minor changes to performance criteria and assessment requirements for clarity	Equivalent

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 ACMEXH303 Prepare and maintain animal habitats

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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:

- identified the housing requirements for the safety and welfare of at least one species
- carried out routine enclosure cleaning and maintenance activities with minimal disturbance to animal on a minimum of three occasions
- recorded or reported on each of the above routine enclosure or exhibit cleaning and maintenance activities
- assessed current enclosure or exhibit and contributed three suggestions for improvements or refurbishment for one species.

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:

- features to consider in providing safe environments or enclosures for animals, including:
 - temperature, humidity, ventilation
 - lighting, noise level
 - natural behaviour opportunities, including social interactions, feeding and enrichment/stimulation
 - shelter, shade, protection from climate extremes
 - retreats, separation, quarantine areas
 - substrate materials, drainage
 - spatial dimensions
 - protection from predation
 - security for animals, staff and public
- types of animal enclosures and related cleaning and maintenance requirements, including:
 - public exhibit and private housing areas

- aquaria
- aviaries
- cages, habitat boxes
- paddocks, walk-through or closed-off enclosures
- hazards and risks when handling captive animals, including:
 - animal bites, envenomation, kicks, scratches, crush injuries
- safe work practices, including:
 - types and use of personal protective equipment
 - use of maintenance equipment
 - handling and disposal of chemicals and biological waste
 - animal welfare and handling techniques and procedures for moving animals for enclosure maintenance
 - manual handling
 - hygiene, infection control, zoonotic disease
- pest identification and associated risks and controls.

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:
 - equipment and resources used to maintain and clean animal enclosures
 - personal protective equipment suitable for activities
 - a range of animals and enclosures
- specifications:
 - facility policies and procedures, including exhibited 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.

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