



Australian Government

ACMEXH306 Rehabilitate native wildlife

Release: 1

ACMEXH306 Rehabilitate native wildlife

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 provide immediate and recovery care and prepare rescued native wildlife for rehabilitation to natural environments.

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, wildlife protection and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

Regulatory requirements apply to rehabilitating native wildlife but vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users are advised to check with the relevant regulatory authority.

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. Provide immediate care for rescued animals	1.1 Select and use personal protective equipment appropriate for task 1.2 Handle native animals following organisational health and safety and animal welfare procedures

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 Follow organisational quarantine and disease control procedures 1.4 Identify animals and initiate emergency care according to organisational policies and procedures 1.5 Seek advice from supervisor or species coordinator and refer seriously injured animals to veterinary clinic for immediate treatment 1.6 Collect and record information on each animal according to legislative and organisational policies and procedures
2. Rehabilitate rescued animals	2.1 Apply suitable species-relevant rearing and recovery procedures 2.2 Provide diets similar to the natural diet of the species 2.3 Provide housing or habitat suitable for species and level of care required 2.4 Identify common problems experienced by rescued animals and options for treatment or euthanasia if required, as directed by veterinarian 2.5 Implement species-specific recovery procedures 2.6 Process deceased animals for research purposes according to legislative and organisational policies and procedures 2.7 Maintain documentation required in relation to rescued wildlife rehabilitation
3. Prepare animals for post-rehabilitation life	3.1 Evaluate options for returning mature animals to native habitat 3.2 Evaluate options for orphaned animals 3.3 Provide hunting or foraging skills development opportunities according to organisational policies and procedures 3.4 Provide socialising opportunities following organisational policies and procedures 3.5 Implement tactics to reduce human interaction

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 legislation and codes of practice relevant to animal capture and release - Interpret animal identification tags
Writing	Record accurate details of animal health and history

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEXH306 Rehabilitate native wildlife	ACMCAN307 Rehabilitate native wildlife	Performance criteria updated for clarity Assessment requirements updated	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 ACMEXH306 Rehabilitate native wildlife

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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:

- documented a rehabilitation program for native animal species in reference to current industry practices, rehabilitation guides, husbandry manuals and other expert sources where relevant
- implemented a rehabilitation program for a minimum of two native animals and for each animal:
 - identified physiology, recovery and husbandry requirements for the species
 - used species appropriate handling techniques
 - provided appropriate husbandry and health care
 - prepared wildlife for post-rehabilitation life
 - handled deceased animals, as required
 - maintained accurate records.

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:

- principles, practices and objectives of native wildlife rehabilitation
- principles of animal welfare and ethics and key requirements of standards and guidelines covering native wildlife
- relevant organisational policies and procedures, including:
 - safe work and animal handling practices
 - hygiene standards, infection control and prevention of zoonotic diseases
- key requirements of national, state or territory wildlife protection legislation and codes of practice relating to rehabilitating wildlife

- basic overview of wildlife ecology, including population dynamics, habitat selection, competition and predator–prey interactions
- types of wildlife typically rescued, including:
 - amphibians
 - birds
 - mammals
 - reptiles
- anatomical structures and physiological features of common native wildlife
- common problems experienced by rescued animals, including:
 - age-related health conditions
 - dehydration, heat stress
 - wildlife diseases, including parasites
 - problems associated with captive care, including stress and humanisation
 - malnutrition, poor body condition, loss of weight or gastric conditions
 - injuries and trauma, including attacks from other animals, hit by car, pollution, natural disasters
- initial emergency care activities to address breathing issues, external bleeding, immobilising fractures and treating dehydration and shock
- basic animal husbandry requirements and rehabilitation procedures for common native species, including:
 - care for young orphaned animals
 - accessing veterinary care and administering medication as directed
 - husbandry requirements, including diets and housing or habitats
 - infection and pathogen control
 - managing injuries
 - integrating with other same-species animals
 - minimising stress, providing warmth and shelter
- pathogens and their potential impact on the environment.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - an animal care workplace or an environment that accurately reflects a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live, native wildlife
 - equipment and resources appropriate to work undertaken to rehabilitate native wildlife
- specifications:
 - organisational policies and procedures relevant to rehabilitating wildlife

- relevant legislation and codes of practice relating to native wildlife rehabilitation
- relationships:
 - supervisor or species coordinator.

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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