



Australian Government

ACMEXH307 Release native wildlife to the natural environment

Release: 1

ACMEXH307 Release native wildlife to the natural environment

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 prepare and successfully release native wildlife into their natural environment.

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 releasing 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. Investigate options for release of native animals	1.1 Research habitat of native animals for release and identify and evaluate suitable release locations 1.2 Identify risks to released native animals and evaluate options to minimise risks

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 Develop release strategy according to organisation and regulatory requirements 1.4 Select, prepare and monitor release site in consultation with experienced personnel
2. Prepare for animal release	2.1 Assess animal's readiness to be released 2.2 Evaluate and implement monitoring devices or tactics 2.3 Complete documentation according to facility and regulatory requirements
3. Release and monitor native animals	3.1 Determine release day according to animal needs 3.2 Handle and transport animals safely and humanely to the release site using low stress techniques and appropriate equipment 3.3 Use release strategies according to animal's requirements 3.4 Monitor released animals where possible to confirm a successful return to their natural environment 3.5 Update records using facility information system

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
Writing	Interpret and record routine data related to releasing native animals

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEXH307 Release native	ACMCAN308 Release native	Changed title Minor changes to	Equivalent

wildlife to the natural environment	animals to natural environment	performance criteria for clarity Assessment requirements updated	
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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 ACMEXH307 Release native wildlife to the natural environment

Modification History

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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:

- released a minimum of two native animals into a natural environment, including (for each):
 - assessed the animal's readiness to be released
 - identified risks to the animal about to be released
 - safely transported animals and released at specified site
 - implemented monitoring devices or tactics
 - 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 animal release
- principles of animal welfare and ethics and key requirements of standards and guidelines covering native wildlife
- relevant facility policies and procedures, including:
 - safe work and animal handling practices
 - hygiene standards, infection control and zoonotic diseases
- key requirements of national, state or territory wildlife protection legislation and codes of practice relating to releasing wildlife
- basic overview of wildlife ecology, including population dynamics, habitat selection, competition and predator–prey interactions
- indicators of animals' readiness for release:
 - being dehumanised
 - displaying appropriate species behaviour

- displaying normal physical features
- recognising natural food sources and feeding independently
- moving freely
- recognising own species
- socially adapted to survive in their natural state
- used to exposure to natural elements
- consideration for releasing wildlife, including:
 - availability of a suitable release habitat and site, including practicalities of release in original area
 - appropriate equipment to safely and humanely transport wildlife
 - timing of release and consideration of species migratory patterns
 - weather conditions, season and time of day
- potential risks to wildlife being released
- risks working with animals in captive care, including:
 - animal bites, envenomation, kicks, scratches and crush injuries
 - biological hazardous waste and sharps disposal
 - handling of chemicals and medicines
 - manual handling, including carrying, lifting and shifting
 - zoonoses
- typical steps for release, including:
 - veterinary examination to ensure animals are clinically free of diseases and parasites
 - notifying relevant government departments
 - organising tagging, banding or marking for monitoring purposes
 - soft or hard release
 - releasing as near as possible to original habitat
 - releasing in the appropriate social group, where applicable to species
 - selecting appropriate weather, season and time of day
- types of animal monitoring devices and tactics
- types of data and databases to record and monitor status of species in the wild.

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 in an animal care facility
- specifications:

- access to organisational policies and procedures
- access to relevant legislation, standards and codes of practice relevant to releasing native wildlife
- relationships:
 - interactions with team members, 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.

Links

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