



Australian Government

ACMGAS103 Assist in the care of animals

Release: 1

ACMGAS103 Assist in the care of 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 covers the skills and knowledge required to provide basic care of quiet, well-handled animals under supervision.

It covers understanding potential hazards and associated risks when working with and around animals.

This is an introductory unit for individuals with little or no experience working with animals in commercial or professional animal care settings, and who undertake defined routine activities under direct supervision.

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

General Animal Studies (GAS)

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 to work with animals	1.1 Confirm the activity to be undertaken with supervisor, including identifying potential WHS hazards and welfare needs of

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	the animal 1.2 Take steps to control risks as directed 1.3 Confirm tools and equipment to be used with supervisor 1.4 Select appropriate personal protective equipment and ensure correct fit 1.5 Apply safe work practices according to workplace policies and procedures
2. Maintain a clean workplace	2.1 Clean animal housing, floors, benches and other flat areas according to WHS and organisational policies and procedures 2.2 Dispose of waste and soiled bedding according to workplace policies and procedures
3. Assist in feeding animals	3.1 Identify food stuffs, and categorise for specific animal dietary needs 3.2 Report food stuffs that are contaminated or of unsuitable quality 3.3 Prepare equipment used in food preparation and distribution 3.4 Provide assistance to experienced staff in the preparation and distribution of meals 3.5 Clean and store equipment and materials according to workplace policies and procedures
4. Report basic animal behaviour and health status	4.1 Identify characteristics of animal behaviour 4.2 Identify signs of healthy, sick or distressed animals 4.3 Report signs of out-of-character behaviour and poor health to supervisor

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
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Skill	Description
Writing	Document basic workplace information related to the daily care of animals
Oral communication	- Listen to, and clarify, instructions - Report inconsistencies and issues with animal food, health, hygiene and safety to supervisor

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGAS103 Assist in the care of animals	ACMGAS103A Assist in the care of 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 ACMGAS103 Assist in the care of 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 assisted in the care of a minimum of three animals, including:

- cleaned work areas and animal housing according to WHS and organisation policies and procedures
- assisted in the preparation and distribution of food under supervision
- related basic animal behaviour to animal categories and reported observations of live animal behaviour and health status to supervisor.

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 care work tasks, including:
 - assisting in health care of animals
 - enclosure and bed cleaning and bedding replacement
 - equipment and consumables stocktake and ordering
 - exercising animals
 - feeding and watering animals
 - following environmentally sustainable work practices
 - grooming and animal cleaning
 - information collection, record and resource updating
 - observing animal behaviour and reporting
 - taking messages and relaying information to appropriate person
 - cleaning workplace and equipment
 - tools and equipment required to undertake routine duties

- cleaning techniques and related safety issues for animal housing and general workplace
- risks of working with animals, including:
 - animal bites, envenomation, kicks, scratches and crush injuries
 - biological hazardous waste and sharps disposal
 - handling of chemicals and medicines
 - gas leakage
 - inhalation of aerosol particles
 - intraocular contamination
 - manual handling, including carrying, lifting and shifting
 - needle pricks and cuts from other sharps
 - release of infective agents (animal and human)
 - slippery or uneven work surfaces
 - zoonoses
- characteristics of animal behaviour, including:
 - indicators of stress
 - defensive gestures
 - submissive gestures
 - basic nutritional and water requirements for animals
 - storage, preparation and presentation requirements for food for animals
 - types of food and food supplements and their basic role in animal diets
 - common animal ailments and conditions
 - contaminated and unsuitable quality food stuffs
- organisational policies and procedures, including WHS and emergency procedures, animal welfare and waste disposal requirements.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an environment that accurately reflects a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of animals
 - equipment and resources appropriate to work undertaken in an animal care environment
- specifications:
 - access to organisational policies and procedures
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - interactions with supervisor.

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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