



Australian Government

ACMGAS203 Complete animal care hygiene routines

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 provide daily care of animals, including the cleaning of animal housing, and grooming or cleaning of animals under supervision.

This unit is applicable to new entrants to the animal care and management industry. Animal care may occur in a wide variety of workplaces, including retail pet stores, kennels and catteries, shelters, veterinary practices, zoos, animal research facilities and others.

This unit applies to individuals who work under general supervision and exercise limited autonomy. They undertake defined activities and work in a structured context.

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	1.1 Identify daily, weekly and periodical workplace routine

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	schedules, and confirm work to be undertaken with supervisor 1.2 Confirm personal workplace responsibilities with supervisor 1.3 Collect workplace schedule and recording documents and update as required 1.4 Identify hazards and risks according to WHS and talk to supervisor about concerns 1.5 Select appropriate personal protective equipment and ensure correct fit
2. Check animals	2.1 Confirm which animals are to be under personal responsibility during shift 2.2 Verify the animal's status via records or verbal reports 2.3 Count animals and note basic behaviour at beginning of shift 2.4 Tell supervisor about changes in animal numbers, behaviour or condition 2.5 Check any animals under personal responsibility and tell supervisor of the status
3. Maintain a clean workplace	3.1 Clean floors, benches and other flat areas according to workplace protocols 3.2 Clean animal housing areas according to workplace protocols 3.3 Dispose of waste and soiled bedding 3.4 Identify damage to housing and equipment and tell supervisor 3.5 Complete post-cleaning procedures
4. Complete hygiene practices for animals	4.1 Identify and practice hygiene control methods for a range of animals 4.2 Perform basic animal hygiene inspection, and identify cleaning needs of nominated animals 4.3 Bathe or clean animals under supervision 4.4 Confirm grooming techniques required for individual animals according to animal requirements 4.5 Groom animals under supervision and according to individual needs
5. Complete post-hygiene	5.1 Return animals to housing

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
care of animals	5.2 Clean and store washing equipment according to workplace policies and procedures 5.3 Clean, check and store grooming tools according to workplace policies and procedures and manufacturers' requirements 5.4 Inform supervisor if there are damaged tools 5.5 Audit and document supplies according to workplace policies and procedures 5.6 Update workplace documents according to workplace policies and procedures

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	Complete basic workplace forms accurately, using legible writing
Numeracy	Complete basic workplace forms accurately, using accurate times, dates and measurements

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGAS203 Complete animal care hygiene routines	ACMGAS203A Complete animal care hygiene routines	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 ACMGAS203 Complete animal care hygiene routines

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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 completed animal care hygiene routines for a minimum of three animals, including:

- confirmed the animal care routines required, cleaned and maintained animal housing and related facilities
- maintained animal comfort and health during cleaning and grooming of animals
- reported and documented animal care duties
- monitored animals and reported issues as required according to workplace protocols and procedures.

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 and hygiene principles
- basic animal grooming techniques and equipment
- unusual behaviour for nominated animal:
 - aggression or docility (depending on animal)
 - disinterest in surroundings, other animals, people or usual stimuli
 - excessive licking, scratching and rubbing
 - lethargy
 - nest building
 - self-mutilation
 - trembling
 - vocalising
- observing and reporting indicators of illness or injury:
 - bleeding

- changes in drinking or eating patterns
- lameness or reluctance to move and vocalising when attempting to move
- swelling
- unusual amounts, colour or texture of faeces
- typical tasks to maintain animal housing, including:
 - adjusting animal housing features according to weather and climatic conditions
 - collection and removal of faeces
 - completing cleaning routines for sick or quarantined animals to avoid cross-contamination
 - emptying and cleaning water and feeding receptacles using approved cleaning products and methods
 - refilling water containers
 - removing rubbish from housing and surrounding areas
 - removing soiled bedding and disposing in approved area
 - replacement of housing furniture items, such as vegetation and behaviour stimulation items, under direction of supervisor
 - resetting of clean bedding materials
 - washing down of toilet areas to remove urine and faeces using approved cleaning products and methods
- hygiene control practices, including:
 - aseptic technique
 - checking animal's skin, coat, shell, carapace or other external features
 - completing infection control procedures as required
 - grooming animals to remove shedding coat or skin, if required, or for general health and wellbeing
 - isolating potentially contagious or ill animals under supervision
 - personal hygiene practices, especially washing and drying hands (e.g. before and after animal contact)
 - providing housing furnishings to assist animal to complete own shedding process
 - use of personal protective equipment
 - washing animal to remove dirt, foreign objects, parasites and other undesirable items
- exercise, social and activity needs of animals
- indicators of poor response to treatment or management of young, ill, injured or compromised animals
- safe animal handling techniques and procedures
- WHS, animal welfare and ethics legislation and codes of practice.

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 workplace policies and procedures
 - current WHS and animal welfare legislation and regulations
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - interactions with team members.

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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