



Australian Government

ACMGAS303 Plan for and provide nutritional requirements for animals

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 calculate rations based on animal species needs and availability of foodstuffs.

The unit applies to individuals working under supervision in the animal care industry where it may be necessary to plan nutritional requirements for animals, including but not restricted to companion animals in pet shops, boarding kennels and catteries, dog and cat breeding establishments, research technology animals, native and exotic animals in zoos, wildlife parks and animal rescue and rehabilitation facilities.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

General Animal Studies (GAS)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Identify nutritional requirements of animals	1.1 Classify animals according to natural nutrient sources and types of digestive systems 1.2 Align normal feeding behaviours and nutritional requirements of a range of animals 1.3 Evaluate feeding strategies and methods to maximise activity

Element	Performance Criteria
	and behavioural enrichment 1.4 Identify characteristics of under- or over-supply of nutrients, and evaluate methods used to monitor nutritional uptake
2. Evaluate food sources and calculate dietary requirements	2.1 Classify foodstuffs according to nutrient content 2.2 Evaluate foodstuffs for shelf life, preparation requirements, availability and cost 2.3 Identify hazards to animal and human health from food sources, and implement procedures to manage risks 2.4 Calculate feed weight and water requirements, based on animal profile 2.5 Calculate protein, carbohydrate, vitamin and mineral supplement and fibre needs, based on animal profile 2.6 Identify other dietary issues relevant to the animal's profile, and factor into dietary calculations 2.7 Prepare and document diet plans after supervisor approval and according to the organisation's policies and procedures
3. Prepare diets and provide food and water	3.1 Prepare food as required by diet plan 3.2 Store food safely to avoid contamination 3.3 Provide food and water according to animal's requirements
4. Monitor feeding and watering practices	4.1 Monitor and record food and water consumption according to the organisation's policies and procedures 4.2 Identify and report abnormal feed intake or feeding behaviour according to the organisation's policies and procedures 4.3 Monitor animals for condition, metabolic and behavioural changes 4.4 Evaluate reasons for poor response to diet and seek specialist advice 4.5 Determine required dietary changes in consultation with supervisor 4.6 Document dietary variations and update records as required

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
Numeracy	• Measure, interpret and record animal weight, length and other relevant objective indicators of change in physiological status
Get the work done	• Maintain the highest standards of hygiene and infection control at all times to reduce the risk of infection and cross-infection • Problem-solve issues that arise with animal nutrition, and address them

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGAS303 Plan for and provide nutritional requirements for animals	ACMGAS303A Plan for and provide nutritional requirements for 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=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

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 ACMGAS303 Plan for and provide nutritional requirements for 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 planned for and provided a diet that provided the appropriate nutritional requirements for a minimum of three different animals, covering two species, including:

- developing diets for animals in consultation with others
- preparing, storing and distributing food according to animal needs, workplace protocols and procedures, whilst maintaining quality control and hygiene practices
- monitoring response to feeding program and modifying diets as required in consultation with 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 classifications that influence dietary needs and styles of eating
- behavioural features related to feeding styles and unsuitable responses to diets
- methods used to monitor nutritional uptake:
 - blood and faecal tests to check nutritional uptake
 - comparing food distributed and food not eaten
 - estimating condition scores
 - weighing animals
- principles of contamination and cross-contamination
- feedstuffs available and approved in Australia for animals, their availability, cost, shelf life, method of storage, preparation and presentation to animals
- feeding methods of different animals
- appropriate containers for food for different animals
- common nutrition-related health problems

- protein, carbohydrate, vitamin and mineral supplement and fibre needs for a range of animal groups
- sources of nutrients for particular animal classes and groups
- the potential causes of poor response to diets
- safe and humane animal handling techniques.

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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