



Australian Government

ACMGEN302 Care for young animals

Release: 1

ACMGEN302 Care for young animals

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 care for and monitor the general health and welfare of young animals. The animals may be rescued native wildlife or animals being naturally or artificially reared.

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

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

General Animal Care (GEN)

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. Identify young animal care and environment needs	1.1 Prepare and maintain a suitable environment for rearing young animals according to facility procedures and relevant animal welfare standards

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.2 Develop appropriate care program to ensure the health and welfare of the animals 1.3 Assist with operating and maintaining controlled environments according to facility policies and procedures and supervisor instructions 1.4 Identify and minimise species-specific natural and artificial rearing risks to young 1.5 Select and use appropriate personal protective equipment and use safe handling techniques for species
2. Monitor health and nutrition requirements for young animals	2.1 Prepare and store dietary and feeding requirements according to facility policies and procedures 2.2 Feed animals according to facility procedures 2.3 Monitor growth and general condition of animals, and record relevant data 2.4 Monitor weaning and follow facility procedures for nominated species
3. Monitor behaviour and mental state of young animals	3.1 Monitor behaviour of young animal, identifying species appropriate normal and abnormal behaviour 3.2 Monitor interactions of young animal with other animals, where appropriate 3.3 Identify indicators of positive and negative experiences to monitor the mental state of the animal 3.4 Prepare young animal for release into natural or captive animal environments 3.5 Maintain accurate records according to facility 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
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Skill	Description
Writing	Plan and document care program requirements using correct terminology and facility formats
Numeracy	- Take animal measurements, including length (mm, m) and weight (g, Kg) - Accurately record, collate and interpret data

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGEN302 Care for young animals	ACMCAN311 Care for young animals	Expanded Elements and Performance Criteria for clarity Assessment requirements updated	Not 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 ACMGEN302 Care for young 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:

- cared for a minimum of two young animals, including for each:
 - provided appropriate environment and care program to meet the needs of each animal
 - monitored animal welfare, including health, nutrition, growth, behaviour and emotional state
 - prepared the animal for release into an exhibited, captive or natural habitat or environment or to a new care setting
 - collected data and maintained accurate records according to facility requirements.

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:

- anatomy and physiology of young animal for relevant species or animal group
- facility procedures for caring for young animals, and relevant animal welfare standards
- species-specific risks involved in natural and artificial rearing of young
- environmental requirements for rearing young animals, including:
 - controlled environments or enclosures
 - housing for mothers and young
 - orphans or artificially raised animals
- husbandry and care requirements for young animals, including:
 - feeding and weaning management, including for artificially raised animals
 - diets and supplements
 - growth and general condition of animals
- normal and abnormal behaviour relevant to species and age group, including:

- interactions with other animals
- concepts of imprinting and socialisation
- indicators of positive and negative mental states
- strategies and requirements for release of young animal into natural or captive or exhibited animal environments or to a new care setting
- animal handling risks and safe handling techniques for species, including:
 - animal bites, envenomation, kicks, scratches or crush injuries
- safe work and hygiene practices, including:
 - manual handling – carrying, lifting and shifting
 - protective clothing and equipment
 - infection control and risk of zoonotic disease
 - handling of chemicals and medicines
 - waste disposal – hazardous, biological and sharps
 - cleaning techniques, equipment and materials
- record-keeping requirements.

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 workplace conditions where young animals are cared for
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live, young animals identified as requiring care in a routine husbandry situation
 - equipment and resources appropriate to work undertaken in animal facility
- specifications:
 - facility policies and procedures covering care for young
- relationships:
 - 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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