



Australian Government

ACMGEN303 Assess the welfare status of an animal

Release: 1

ACMGEN303 Assess the welfare status of an animal

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 assess the welfare status of an animal using an industry recognised animal welfare assessment framework or model and tool.

The unit applies to individuals who work with animals in a range of environments and facilities. They take responsibility for monitoring, caring for and reporting on the welfare of animals in their care.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to 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 current animal welfare and management approaches	1.1 Identify issues relating to animal welfare and ethics in animal work environments 1.2 Investigate current animal welfare assessment frameworks or models relevant to own workplace

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 Identify key compliance requirements of state/territory legislation and codes of practice relevant to the workplace and sector
2. Use an assessment tool to assess an animal's welfare status	2.1 Identify and select a workplace or sector specific tool to assess the welfare of an animal 2.2 Identify environmental factors that impact on animal welfare and their effects 2.3 Observe animal behaviours and assess the likely emotional state of the animal based on physical, behavioural and environmental factors 2.4 Record observations and determine the animal's welfare status using a workplace or sector specific tool
3. Review assessment outcomes and make recommendations to improve animal welfare	3.1 Review outcomes recorded on the animal welfare assessment 3.2 Identify strategies to address any identified factors impacting negatively on the welfare of the animal 3.3 Identify opportunities to improve the animals' emotional state and quality of life 3.4 Record suggested improvement actions and likely impact and measures of success
4. Communicate animal welfare outcomes	4.1 Seek assistance from supervisor, experts or team members to review suggested improvement actions and potential consequences of change 4.2 Provide information to relevant stakeholders on the welfare assessment of the animal

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
Reading	Interpret relevant information in a range of animal welfare texts or documents
Writing	Use industry specific terminology to document observations and measurements of animal welfare assessment

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGEN303 Assess the welfare status of an animal	Not applicable	Developed in response to industry need	Newly created

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 ACMGEN303 Assess the welfare status of an animal

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- reviewed at least one animal welfare assessment framework or model from the following list and selected an associated assessment tool:
 - Five Domains
 - Five Freedoms
 - Quality of Life assessment
 - sector or workplace specific models
- completed an animal welfare assessment of one animal or group of animals using the selected tool
- reviewed the outcomes of the animal welfare assessment and suggested actions or strategies to improve the animal's welfare status
- explained the assessment process, outcomes and suggested actions to at least two stakeholders and sought their feedback on the suggested actions.

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:

- aspects of animal welfare, including:
 - differences between animal care, husbandry, welfare and ethics and legislative requirements
 - focus on an animal's experiences and how it is coping in its environment
 - welfare status can vary along a continuum from poor to good
- brief overview of relationship between society's attitudes toward animals and animal welfare, including:
 - legislation and regulation

- market and economic forces
- varying stakeholder opinions, including animal rights activism and cultural protocols
- key compliance requirements of:
 - state/territory legislation, regulation, accreditation and codes of practice relevant to animal work sector
 - relevant sections of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines
 - legal and reporting obligations
- animal welfare assessment frameworks and/or model suitable for workplace
- key features covered in an animal welfare assessment, including:
 - nutrition
 - social and physical environment
 - health
 - behaviour
 - emotional state
 - role of euthanasia
- key animal welfare issues and ethics relevant to the industry sector or workplace
- workplace or industry sector tools for assessing and managing animal welfare
- practical sector-specific strategies to improve factors impacting on an animal's welfare, focusing on:
 - species-appropriate social and physical environment
 - disease prevention and veterinary treatment
 - species-specific behaviours and environmental choices
 - knowledgeable and skilled care and management
 - humane interactions and handling.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an animal care workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live animals or video or film clips of live animals
- specifications:
 - animal welfare assessment tool appropriate for workplace or sector
- relationships:
 - relevant carer, supervisor, team member, or expert.

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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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>