



Australian Government

ACMGEN308 Walk and exercise dogs

Release: 1

ACMGEN308 Walk and exercise dogs

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 manage dog walking and exercise activities for clients or the workplace.

This unit applies to individuals working in the companion animal industry sector where dog walking and exercise services are provided, and may include boarding/day care facilities, welfare organisations and animal shelters. They work independently and take responsibility for the quality of their own work, including carrying out assigned tasks, selecting products and techniques, solving problems and working to required timeframes.

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. Local animal management regulations relating to dogs in the community vary according to jurisdiction and should be checked by users of this unit.

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. Establish dog walking and exercise	1.1 Identify local animal management regulations applicable to dogs

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
requirements	in the community 1.2 Assess hazards to self and dog/s, relating to walking and exercise activities, and determine measures to minimise risks 1.3 Identify workplace procedures for responding to emergencies or incidents 1.4 Establish or implement a workplace system for identifying each dog and keeping records
2. Organise arrangements and collect dog/s	2.1 Identify client and/or workplace and animal exercise requirements 2.2 Obtain information on dog, including medical conditions, health and vaccination status, and behavioural concerns 2.3 Assess basic health, emotional state and physical capability of the dog to undertake exercise, and advise client or workplace of any issues 2.4 Confirm arrangements for services, schedule and location 2.5 Organise walking equipment, waste bags, water supply, enrichment and positive reinforcement items, and other supplies if required 2.6 Select, check and correctly fit dog walking equipment 2.7 Assess dog compatibility if activity involves more than one dog 2.8 Collect dog/s and handle and secure using safe, low stress techniques
3. Walk and exercise dog/s on lead	3.1 Establish suitable walking route for on-lead activities 3.2 Reinforce training relating to walking on lead, including use of lead, positioning dog, speed and direction, and visual and verbal cues 3.3 Monitor interactions with other dogs and people and reinforce calm, socially healthy responses towards other dogs and unfamiliar people at all times 3.4 Use management and training techniques to optimise positive welfare outcomes for dog/s at all times
4. Finalise walk or exercise activity	4.1 Return dog/s according to agreed arrangements 4.2 Handle and dispose of dog waste according to local and environmental regulations 4.3 Clean, sanitise and store equipment and transport, where used, according to workplace requirements 4.4 Maintain log of activities and records according to 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>
	requirements 4.5 Organise payment information according to workplace procedures 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
Reading	Interpret animal management regulations relating to dogs in the community
Writing	Use industry terminology when completing records
Oral communication	Determine requirements through open-ended questioning, active listening, paraphrasing and summarising
Numeracy	Estimate and calculate weight, distance, slope, area, ratio, time, temperature and speed

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGEN308 Walk and exercise dogs	Not applicable	Unit created to address an emerging skill required by industry	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 ACMGEN308 Walk and exercise dogs

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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:

- walked at least three individual dogs on lead according to individual dog requirements and environmental conditions.

In doing the above, the individual must have:

- obtained client information and dog history for each dog
- assessed each dog's suitability for walking, including basic health, emotional state and physical capability of the dog to undertake exercise, and advised client or workplace of any issues
- identified hazards and minimised risks related to self and dog/s
- positively reinforced appropriate behaviour for each dog
- handled each dog in a safe, low stress manner using appropriate equipment
- maintained a workplace log and records.

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:

- key requirements of local animal management regulations relating to dogs in the community
- insurance requirements relating to dog walking activities
- methods for identifying dogs
- methods for obtaining background information, including medical conditions, health/vaccination status and behavioural issues
- basic animal anatomy and physiology relevant to dog exercise and restraint
- safe, low stress and proactive dog handling and restraint techniques
- behavioural characteristics of dogs, including:

- canine communication with people and other dogs
- signs of distress and increased arousal
- basic overview of emotional states, including positive, neutral and negative
- enrichment/positive reinforcement items and activities
- positive reinforcement behaviour management techniques
- hazards and risks relevant to walking activities, including:
 - cars/traffic
 - other dogs, people, wildlife
 - toxic substances, pesticides and poisons
 - personal injuries – bites, scratches and manual handling
- workplace policies, procedures and requirements, including:
 - safety and emergency procedures
 - hygiene and infection control
 - waste disposal
 - animal welfare and humane handling
 - personal protective equipment
- safe use of disinfectants and cleaning agents, including safety data sheets
- requirements of relevant record-keeping system.

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 represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live dogs for walking and exercising specified in the performance evidence
 - equipment and supplies for walking and exercising dogs
- specifications:
 - local government animal management regulations relating to dogs in the community.

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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