



Australian Government

ACMGEN312 Provide nutritional requirements for animals

Release: 1

ACMGEN312 Provide nutritional requirements for 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 prepare rations based on animal species needs and availability of food products.

The unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry who feed and provide nutritional requirements for animals, in a range of small to large facilities. They work under broad direction, typically in a team environment and are required to take responsibility for their own work, including carrying out assigned tasks, organising processes, solving routine problems 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 nutritional requirements of animals	1.1 Identify natural nutrient sources and types of digestive systems for animal species or groups within the workplace 1.2 Align normal feeding behaviours and nutritional requirements of a

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	range of animals 1.3 Evaluate feeding strategies and methods to maximise activity and behavioural enrichment 1.4 Identify characteristics of under-supply or over-supply of nutrients, and evaluate methods used to monitor nutritional uptake
2. Review food sources and calculate dietary requirements	2.1 Classify food products according to nutrient content for animals cared for in the workplace 2.2 Assess 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 Estimate with reasonable accuracy or calculate feed and water requirements, based on provided diet plan 2.5 Identify key food groups of animal food or diet 2.6 Identify other dietary issues included in animal diets 2.7 Document diet provided to animals according to workplace procedures or instructions
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 and minimise degradation or nutrient loss 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 workplace procedures 4.2 Identify and report abnormal feed intake or feeding behaviour according to the workplace procedures 4.3 Monitor animals for condition, metabolic and behavioural changes 4.4 Identify reasons for poor response to diet and seek specialist advice 4.5 Determine required dietary changes in consultation with supervisor 4.6 Document required dietary variations and update workplace records 4.7 Hand over individual dietary information to team member or client

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 species-specific dietary and nutritional terminology in workplace policies and procedures
Writing	Use biological and industry terminology when completing records
Oral communication	Use open-ended questioning, active listening, paraphrasing and summarising to identify animal dietary issues and possible resolutions with relevant personnel
Numeracy	- Calculate volume, weight, area, ratio, time and application rates - Measure, interpret and record animal weight, length and other relevant objective indicators of change in physiological status

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGEN312 Provide nutritional requirements for animals	ACMGAS303 Plan for and provide nutritional requirements for animals	Title changed Changes to performance criteria for clarity Assessment requirements updated	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 ACMGEN312 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 provided a nutritionally appropriate diet for a minimum of three different animals. The three animals selected must include two species and include at least two different individual dietary needs.

In doing the above, the individual must have undertaken the following for each animal:

- prepared animal diet in consultation with relevant personnel
- prepared, stored and distributed food according to animal needs and workplace quality control procedures and hygiene practices
- monitored animal response to feeding program and reviewed diet 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
- key food groups in animal food or diet, including protein, carbohydrate, vitamin and mineral supplement and fibre content
- behavioural features related to feeding styles and unsuitable responses to diets
- methods used to monitor nutritional uptake, including:
 - comparing food distributed and food not eaten
 - estimating condition scores
 - weighing animals
- principles of contamination and cross-contamination
- species-specific feed products available and approved in Australia, including availability, cost, shelf life, method of storage, preparation and presentation to animals

- feeding methods of different animals, including the use of safe, low stress animal handling/interaction techniques
- appropriate food storage and feeding containers for different animals
- common nutrition-related health problems and health problems that impact an animal's diet
- importance of compliance with veterinary or supervisor instructions for specific animals
- sources of nutrients for particular animal classes and groups
- potential causes of poor response to diets.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - an animal care facility or an environment that represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live animals specified in the performance evidence
 - animal care environment equipment and resources required for the nutrition tasks specified in the performance evidence
- specifications:
 - workplace procedures relevant to animal diets and nutritional requirements
- 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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