



Australian Government

ACMGEN401 Develop animal diets

Release: 1

ACMGEN401 Develop animal diets

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 develop and communicate information to others about animal diets.

This unit applies to experienced or senior animal carers, keepers who generally supervise others and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable and unpredictable problems. Tasks may vary in scale from individual animal welfare to social group management, working across a range of programs and/or animal groups in a facility.

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 are known to 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. Develop a feed regime	1.1 Evaluate current diets of animals 1.2 Research current, scientifically validated information on natural and artificial diets and feeding regimes 1.3 Formulate and modify diets and feeding regimes to assist in

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	correct diet development 1.4 Substitute natural feed with artificial or alternative feeds after consultation with supervisor and/or veterinarian 1.5 Coordinate preparation and presentation of diets according to workplace health and safety and animal requirements
2. Monitor food	2.1 Order sufficient quantities of food supplies 2.2 Monitor food quality according to facility policies and procedures 2.3 Maintain and store food to avoid spoilage and contamination according to facility and section requirements 2.4 Update and maintain accurate feeding records
3. Communicate effectively with others about animal nutritional requirements	3.1 Contribute to the facility's nutritional policy 3.2 Assist with nutrition and hygiene training of keepers or carers 3.3 Coordinate nutritional projects and communication with internal and external personnel 3.4 Prepare and present nutritional reports to relevant team members 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
Reading	Interpret nutritional values from product information and labels
Oral communication	Communicate effectively with staff and management on all aspects of animal nutrition
Numeracy	- Weigh animals or estimate weight (g, Kg, t) with reasonable accuracy - Calculate nutritional requirements for specific animals and costs of food supplies - Measure (ml, L) and weigh (g, Kg) food rations accurately using appropriate equipment

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGEN401 Develop animal diets	ACMCAN403 Develop animal diets	Minor changes to performance criteria and assessment requirements for clarity	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 ACMGEN401 Develop animal diets

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Performance Evidence

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

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- developed diets for a minimum of three animals, each with different needs, including:
 - two different species or two different age groups
 - one interim corrective diet
- supervised at least two team members on at least two occasions each, to prepare diets and feed regimes to meet specific animal requirements
- prepared one nutrition report for a section or species group.

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:

- principles of nutrition and the impact of poor nutrition on the health and condition of animals:
 - natural animal diets
 - signs of poor nutrition
 - importance of vitamin and mineral substitution in artificial diets
- characteristics of animal groups for which diets will be planned, including:
 - anatomy and physiology, particularly digestive systems, styles of eating, nutritional needs
 - dietary requirements for different age groups
 - behavioural features related to feeding styles and unsuitable responses to diets
 - feeding techniques to suit different animal behaviours
- feedstuffs available and approved in Australia for animals, including:
 - availability and cost
 - shelf life and method of storage
 - preparation and presentation to animals

- animal welfare principles and ethics related to nutrition and diets, including:
 - Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Exhibited Animals
 - animal welfare assessment frameworks including the Five Domains
 - restrictions on feeding animals live vertebrate prey
 - state/territory regulations
- relevant facility policies and procedures for managing animal nutrition and diets, including:
 - health and safety and emergency procedures
 - hygiene standards - cleaning and infection control
 - food handling, storage and waste disposal
 - pest and vermin control
- facility record keeping requirements relevant to feeding regimes, including:
 - information management software
 - animal husbandry manuals
 - monitoring and scoring body condition.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of 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 a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live animals, or specific detail about the condition of different animals to be able to plan diets
 - equipment and resources appropriate to work undertaken in an animal care environment
- specifications:
 - facility policies and procedures relating to diet and nutrition
- relationships:
 - team members.

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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