



Australian Government

ACMINF201 Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines

Release: 1

ACMINF201 Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 2.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to safely handle companion animals and maintain clean and hygienic conditions for effective infection control in a range of environments where companion animals are cared for on a temporary basis. The unit focuses on dogs and cats. It may cover other companion animals such as birds, fish, rabbits and reptiles.

The unit applies to individuals who are employed and/or volunteer in providing services that cater for companion animals such as shelters, catteries/kennels and day care facilities, and grooming/walking businesses. They work in known contexts dealing with routine tasks and a range of predictable problems.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Infection control (INF)

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>

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. Confirm infection control guidelines	1.1 Check workplace requirements for infection control and biosecurity related to own role 1.2 Identify key personnel within the organisation with responsibility for infection control and biosecurity 1.3 Identify common risks relating to infectious and zoonotic diseases relevant to companion animals 1.4 Check workplace procedures for minimising risk of contracting diseases from companion animals
2. Maintain personal safety and hygiene when handling companion animals	2.1 Wash and sanitise hands according to workplace guidelines 2.2 Check own skin for cuts and abrasions and protect according to workplace guidelines 2.3 Select and fit appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) according to the task requirements and workplace procedures
3. Handle companion animals safely	3.1 Observe animal behaviour before approaching or handling to check for risks to safety of self, and other people or animals 3.2 Use appropriate techniques, equipment and PPE to safely handle and control the companion animal to avoid being bitten or scratched 3.3 Handle animals calmly and safely according to workplace guidelines and animal welfare principles
4. Monitor companion animals for signs of disease	4.1 Recognise signs of common diseases affecting companion animals handled in the workplace 4.2 Report suspected cases of disease or illness to appropriate person 4.3 Follow instructions or guidelines for controlling access to infected animals 4.4 Update infection control records according to workplace procedures
5. Maintain clean and hygienic animal environments	5.1 Check procedures for cleaning and disinfecting animal environments 5.2 Select and prepare appropriate cleaning products, disinfectants and cleaning equipment for cleaning task 5.3 Clean animal environment and replace companion animal bedding according to workplace practices 5.4 Ensure companion animal environments, feed and water are free of

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	contaminants 5.5 Dispose of waste according to workplace infection control and environmental practices, and local government requirements

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 information about products such as disinfectants, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment - Locate key information in workplace guidelines
Writing	Record workplace information using accurate terminology and in required format
Oral communication	Use active listening and questioning techniques to obtain and give clear information to others
Numeracy	- Identify and interpret numerical information found on cleaning product labels and instructions, including quantity, temperature, mixing ratio, application rate and withholding time - Measure and calculate area, weight and volumes
Navigate the world of work	Recognise the importance of infection control and biosecurity and associated responsibilities of own role and work
Get the work done	Assemble resources and sequence activities relating to companion animal infection control to achieve positive outcomes

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMINF201	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines			
---	--	--	--

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 ACMINF201 Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 2.0.

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:

- checked for animal behaviour risks and safely handled at least three different companion animals using correct techniques, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- correctly recognised the signs of at least five different diseases in at least two different companion animal species
- carried out at least three of the following infection control activities while caring for three different live companion animals:
 - visual checks of animal for signs of disease
 - cleaning of animal body fluids and excrement
 - cleaning and changing of animal bedding
 - cleaning feeding utensils
 - completion of workplace records related to infection control.

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:

- basic companion animal behaviour and body language depicting different emotions, including distressed, aggressive and relaxed
- basic principles of infection control and biosecurity, including:
 - prevent spread of disease before it occurs and limit contamination after it has occurred
 - personal hygiene, PPE and vaccination/immunisation
 - disinfecting and/or sanitising equipment
 - cleaning animal housing
 - limiting movement of animals and environmental contamination
 - reporting incidents and infectious diseases
- key terminology related to infection control and basic meanings, including:

- biosecurity
- infectious
- contagious
- zoonosis
- pathogen
- contaminant
- how diseases can be transmitted and spread, including:
 - between animals
 - between animals and people
- main risks in contracting a zoonosis from companion animals
- signs of common infectious diseases (including zoonoses) affecting companion animals, including:
 - canine parvovirus / feline panleukopenia
 - canine infectious respiratory disease complex (kennel cough) / feline upper respiratory disease complex
 - toxoplasmosis
 - salmonellosis
 - lice, ticks, fleas
 - sarcoptic mange/scabies (parasitic/mite disease)
 - ringworm
 - roundworm, hookworm
- types of cleaning materials and disinfectants and their application and contact requirements
- workplace reporting requirements.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in a companion animal care workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live companion animals
 - suitable taxidermy specimens, veterinary simulators, anatomical models or images/video if live animals cannot be obtained
 - cleaning equipment and materials
 - PPE used in animal care environment
- specifications:
 - workplace infection control guidelines
 - cleaning product user instructions.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>