



Australian Government

ACMINF303 Implement infection control in the handling and care of native wildlife

Release: 1

ACMINF303 Implement infection control in the handling and care of native wildlife

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 handle and house sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife safely and follow infection control guidelines to minimise the spread of diseases between wildlife, humans and the environment.

The unit applies to individuals who work or volunteer for animal welfare agencies in a range of wildlife rescue, care and rehabilitation contexts where animals are housed and cared for on a temporary basis. They work under broad direction, take responsibility for their own work, solve problems and use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.

State and territory legislation and local government by laws apply in some jurisdictions to the keeping of Australian native animals.

No other 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>
1. Identify requirements for caring for sick,	1.1 Identify state/territory regulatory requirements for wildlife rehabilitation, shelter and/or foster care

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
injured or orphaned native wildlife	1.2 Source and interpret the key principles and requirements for infection control when working with wildlife from responsible agency 1.3 Identify roles of key personnel within the work environment relating to infection control and biosecurity 1.4 Identify common diseases and quarantine periods relating to specific species of native animals in own region or environment 1.5 Identify zoonotic diseases relevant to wildlife handled in the work environment
2. Maintain personal safety and hygiene when handling native wildlife	2.1 Recognise the risks of personal injury, contracting a zoonosis or other health problems, associated with working with wildlife and how these can be minimised 2.2 Maintain personal hygiene when handling animals including washing and sanitising hands and covering cuts and abrasions according to infection control guidelines 2.3 Maintain personal vaccinations/immunisations according to workplace requirements 2.4 Comply with clothing requirements and correctly select, fit, and use personal protective equipment (PPE) 2.5 Ensure personal hygiene and clean clothing when moving between captive animal enclosures to control spread of disease
3. Safely capture and handle native wildlife	3.1 Observe native wildlife behaviour before approaching or handling to assess risks to safety of self, or other people or animals 3.2 Use appropriate techniques, equipment and PPE to capture and handle wildlife to ensure minimum stress and avoid injuries to handlers 3.3 Recognise dangerous species and follow species-specific, safe capture and handling techniques or contact a specialist handler or organisation for assistance 3.4 Secure native wildlife in appropriate enclosure, container and/or vehicle ensuring that the animal is not able to escape or be harmed during transport
4. Assess condition and house captured wildlife	4.1 Recognise signs of common diseases, including handling and transport stress, and/or assess the condition of injuries affecting the captured wildlife 4.2 Carry out basic first aid or take captured wildlife to a veterinarian

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	depending on animal condition and nature of injury 4.3 Set up enclosures in a location and environment that minimises the risk of disease and contamination 4.4 Separate animals according to zoning or protective barrier requirements to limit containment of potential disease risks 4.5 Ensure enclosures and bedding minimise potential contamination of the individual and other wildlife on the premise 4.6 Assess rehabilitation and plan release requirements for individual wildlife according to agency and regulatory requirements
5. Care for wildlife	5.1 Check quality of feed, supplements and water, locate away from potential sources of contamination and store in designated areas 5.2 Clean, disinfect and/or sterilise feeding bottles and containers to prevent contamination and minimise the spread of disease 5.3 Control access to different areas of the work environment and limit human contact according to infection control guidelines 5.4 Monitor the health and condition of the wildlife responding to individual needs
6. Maintain clean and hygienic wildlife captive environments	6.1 Select and prepare appropriate cleaning products, disinfectants and cleaning equipment for activity 6.2 Clean and disinfect animal captive environments according to infection control guidelines and cleaning product instructions 6.3 Change wildlife bedding and/or sort washable items for laundering or disposal 6.4 Ensure enclosures, feed and water are free of contaminants, rodents and vermin 6.5 Dispose of waste according to infection control and environmental practices, and local government requirements
7. Maintain records and report infection control and biosecurity activity	7.1 Fill in organisational records or documentation relating to infection control according to guidelines 7.2 Report infection control incidents and signs of contagious disease according to regulatory and agency 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 procedures and workplace forms
Oral communication	Use active listening and questioning techniques to obtain and give clear and precise information to others
Numeracy	- Identify and interpret numerical information found on cleaning product labels and safety data sheets, including quantity, temperature, mixing ratio, application rate and withholding time - Measure and calculate area, weight and volume
Navigate the world of work	Recognise the importance of infection control and associated responsibilities of own role and work
Interact with others	Work collaboratively with wildlife care organisations or foster carers to achieve joint outcomes
Get the work done	Plan and assemble resources and sequence activities relating to wildlife care to achieve positive outcomes

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMINF303 Implement infection control in the handling and care of native wildlife	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

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 ACMINF303 Implement infection control in the handling and care of native wildlife

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:

- safely captured and handled at least three different native wildlife animals using correct techniques, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE), including:
 - one adult animal
 - one animal requiring basic first aid
 - one young orphan
- correctly recognised the signs of at least five different diseases in wildlife, covering at least two of the following native wildlife groups:
 - mammals including marsupials and monotremes
 - birds
 - reptiles
 - amphibians
- assessed the risks and followed infection control guidelines when caring for at least three different native wildlife animals
- completed written records related to handling/caring for an injured, orphaned or diseased animal following animal welfare agency and regulatory requirements.

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:

- state/territory wildlife and animal welfare regulatory requirements, including:
 - authorisation to provide rehabilitation shelters and/or foster care
 - not keeping wildlife as pets and relevant penalties
 - rules about displaying animals
 - rules about visitors to shelters
 - rehabilitation and release requirements

- categories of species including, threatened, unusual and pest species
- recording and reporting requirements
- state/territory legislation and codes of practice related to captured wildlife, biosecurity, health and safety in the workplace and animal welfare
- basic principles of infection control and biosecurity for wildlife, including:
 - personal hygiene, vaccinations/immunisation and PPE
 - ways of spreading infections and diseases including people, animals, environment and equipment
 - cleaning wildlife enclosures and bedding
 - cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising equipment
 - chemical and disinfectant contact times
 - limiting movement of wildlife and contact with people
 - appropriate levels of human contact
 - limiting environmental contamination including pests, vermin and noxious plants
 - reporting incidents and contagious diseases
- key terminology related to infection control and basic meanings, including:
 - biosecurity
 - contagious
 - zoonosis
 - pathogen
- risks in catching, handling and caring for native wildlife, including:
 - stressed, frightened behaviour from wildlife
 - injuries, including bites, scratches, kicks
 - zoonotic disease transmission
 - personal health and wellbeing including managing compassion fatigue
 - techniques and equipment for capturing wildlife
 - main wildlife species related to own work or environment
- signs of common injuries and infectious diseases (including zoonoses) affecting native wildlife, including:
 - sarcoptic mange (scabies) - parasitic/mite disease
 - lice, ticks, fleas
 - Q fever
 - ringworm
 - bat lyssavirus (ABLV) disease
 - hendra virus
 - parvovirus
 - psittacine circoviral disease (beak and feather disease)
 - salmonella
 - state/territory specific diseases
 - stress myopathy and dermatitis

- traumatic injuries including motor vehicles and shootings
- importance of public safety risks associated with bats/flying foxes and Australian bat lyssavirus
- how diseases can be transmitted and spread, including:
 - via pathogens
 - between animals
 - between animals and humans
 - between animals or humans and the environment
- basic types of pathogens, including:
 - viruses
 - bacteria
 - fungi
 - protozoa
 - internal parasites (worms)
 - external parasites (lice and mites)
- types of cleaning/sterilisation materials and disinfectants and their application and contact requirements
- procedures for reporting suspected infections or disease, including:
 - contacting veterinarian (wildlife) or doctor (humans)
 - agency supervisor
 - state/territory regulations reporting requirements.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in a wildlife care shelter workplace or an environment that accurately represents these conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of live native wildlife
 - suitable taxidermy specimens, veterinary simulators, anatomical models or images/video if live animals cannot be obtained
 - disinfectants and cleaning equipment and materials
 - PPE used in animal care
 - wildlife enclosures or containers
- specifications:
 - animal welfare agency infection control guidelines.

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>