



Australian Government

ACMSPE301 Provide basic care of amphibians

Release: 1

ACMSPE301 Provide basic care of amphibians

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify amphibians and their behavioural and physical needs and provide daily care requirements.

This unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry where it may be necessary to care for commonly kept amphibians. This may include work in animal shelters or rehabilitation organisations, pet shops, zoos or similar workplaces. In some cases, animals may have been rescued from the wild, and successful rehabilitation is required to restore animal health and wellbeing before releasing back to their natural environment.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad supervision and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable problems.

Regulatory requirements apply to this unit but vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users must check with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

NOTE: The terms ‘occupational health and safety’ (OHS) and ‘work health and safety’ (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Species Specific (SPE)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>

Element	Performance criteria
1. Identify amphibians	1.1 Define the profile of amphibians commonly held in the facility, including habitat, nutrition, health and behavioural characteristics 1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify amphibians using industry terminology 1.4 Define, interpret and document colours, markings and other identifying features
2. Identify and evaluate behavioural and housing needs	2.1 Monitor water quality and make adjustments as required to maintain optimum water quality appropriate for the species being housed, as directed by supervisor 2.2 Identify indicators of animal comfort and normal behaviour, and recognise signs of distressed amphibians and report to supervisor 2.3 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities 2.4 Evaluate current animal housing design to ensure animal welfare needs are met 2.5 Implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific species of amphibian
3. Approach and handle amphibians	3.1 Identify WHS hazards associated with handling and restraining amphibians, and implement treatments to minimise risks 3.2 Select and use appropriate equipment to catch and handle amphibian 3.3 Approach amphibian safely 3.4 Handle amphibians using approved animal welfare procedures
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of health in amphibian 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Implement general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures according to level of job responsibility 4.4 Identify options for health enrichment activities and implement as directed by supervisor
5. Feed amphibians	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to amphibian-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred food source and assess samples for quality and suitability 5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control

Element	Performance criteria
	options 5.4 Prepare food and food supplements according to dietary needs 5.5 Distribute food and water according to schedule/feeding plan or animal requirements
6. Maintain records	6.1 Complete feed and treatment records noting food consumption, health and care activities 6.2 Report abnormalities to supervisor 6.3 Complete documentation relevant to licences and transport, where 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 product labels accurately
Get the work done	- Comply with relevant legislation requirements relating to amphibians - Use problem-solving skills to prioritise daily tasks

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE301 Provide basic care of amphibians	ACMSPE301A Provide basic care of amphibians	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Minor changes to clarify content Assessment requirements revised	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 ACMSPE301 Provide basic care of amphibians

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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:

- identified the specific characteristics and needs of amphibians
- provided basic care for a minimum of two amphibians of different species, including (for each):
 - demonstrating appropriate restraint and safe handling techniques
 - preparing and providing food
 - assisting with health care needs
 - maintaining feed and treatment 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:

- anatomical structures and physiological features used to identify and classify amphibians
- digestive system features of amphibians anatomical features, including:
 - anatomical features
 - physiological features
 - feeding patterns and natural dietary requirements for the species
 - potential digestive system malfunctions or problems
 - water need
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for amphibians
- housing, social and activity needs of amphibians and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in amphibians

- natural amphibian behaviour relating to the characteristics of the species, age, health status, behavioural and social needs and the signs of distress, illness and undesirable behaviours
- enrichment needs, including:
 - food or food-related enrichment
 - physical enrichment items
 - social enrichment
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- principles of animal welfare
- safe amphibian handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures
- types of food and food supplements and their role in amphibian diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species
- types of information that is reported and recorded in animal care workplaces
- state/territory legislation and codes of practice related to captured wildlife, biosecurity, WHS and animal welfare.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of amphibians
 - equipment and resources typically available in an animal care facility
- specifications:
 - access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant codes of practice
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - interactions with 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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