



Australian Government

ACMSPE302 Provide basic care of birds

Release: 1

ACMSPE302 Provide basic care of birds

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 birds and their behavioural and physical needs and provide daily care requirements.

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

This 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>

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1. Identify commonly kept birds	1.1 Define profile of birds commonly held in facility, including habitat, nutrition, health and behavioural characteristics 1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify birds 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 Identify indicators of bird comfort and normal behaviour 2.2 Recognise signs of distress and report to supervisor 2.3 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities 2.4 Evaluate current bird housing and nesting requirements to ensure animal welfare needs are met 2.5 Identify and implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific bird species
3. Approach and handle birds	3.1 Identify WHS hazards associated with handling and restraining birds, and implement treatments to minimise risks 3.2 Select and use personal protective equipment to catch, handle and restrain birds 3.3 Approach and catch birds safely 3.4 Restrain birds using approved animal welfare management procedures
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in birds 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures and implement in line with level of job responsibility 4.4 Implement health enrichment activities as directed by supervisor
5. Feed and water birds	5.1 Identify digestive system features, and relate to bird-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred food sources and assess samples for quality and suitability 5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	options 5.4 Prepare food in accordance with 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 birds - Use problem-solving skills to prioritise daily tasks

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE302 Provide basic care of birds	ACMSPE302A Provide basic care of birds	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Minor changes to clarify content Assessment	Equivalent unit

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
		requirements revised	

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 ACMSPE302 Provide basic care of birds

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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 birds
- provided basic care for a minimum of two birds 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 birds
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for birds
- housing, nesting, social and activity needs of birds, and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in birds, determined by observations of:
 - activity level
 - assessment of body condition
 - excessive self-scratching or self-mutilation
 - feather plucking
 - posture and attitude
 - response to stimuli
 - appetite and dietary history

- feathers and faecal matter (for any abnormalities)
- enrichment needs, including:
 - extras to daily base diet
 - physical enrichment items
 - social enrichment
- potential hazards and risks to birds and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- safe bird handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures, including use of personal protective equipment
- methods used to safely approach and handle birds, including:
 - confining to small area before attempting to catch
 - encouraging bird to approach by offering a treat
 - enticing bird into a smaller enclosure
- the principles of animal welfare
- types of food and food supplements and their role in bird 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 birds from different species
 - 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.

Links

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