



Australian Government

ACMSPE304 Provide basic care of domestic dogs

Release: 1

ACMSPE304 Provide basic care of domestic dogs

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 dogs and their behavioural and physical needs, and provide daily care requirements.

This unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry where domestic dogs are bred, reared, trained, cared for or housed. This may include animal shelters, pet shops, breeding or boarding kennels, companion animal training or grooming establishments or similar workplaces. 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>
1. Identify common dog breeds	1.1 Define the profile of dog breeds commonly held within facility, including appearance, nutrition, health and behavioural

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	characteristics 1.2 Identify physical characteristics of dogs using industry terminology 1.3 Identify breeds of dogs using industry terminology 1.4 Define, interpret and document breed, colours, markings and other identifying features
2. Identify and evaluate behavioural and housing needs	2.1 Identify indicators of animal 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 Assess current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of the dogs kept and legislation requirements 2.5 Identify and implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific dog
3. Handle and restrain dogs	3.1 Identify WHS risks associated with handling and restraining dogs, and implement methods to minimise risks 3.2 Select and use appropriate equipment to restrain and handle dogs 3.3 Approach and restrain dogs in a way that minimises risks to the animal and others using approved animal welfare procedures
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in dogs 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 Identify options for health enrichment activities and implement as directed by supervisor
5. Feed dogs	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to dog-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred food sources and assess for quality and suitability 5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control options 5.4 Prepare food in accordance with dietary needs

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	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 domestic dogs - Use problem-solving skills to prioritise daily tasks

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE304 Provide basic care of domestic dogs	ACMSPE304A Provide basic care of dogs	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Minor changes to clarify content Retitled to include 'domestic' dogs 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 ACMSPE304 Provide basic care of domestic dogs

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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 domestic dogs
- provided basic care for a minimum of two dogs of different breeds, including (for each):
 - demonstrating appropriate restraint and safe handling techniques
 - preparing and providing food
 - assisting with health care needs
- maintained feed and treatment records for one dog.

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 common breeds of domestic dog
- Australian National Kennel Council breed standard guidelines
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for dogs
- housing, social and activity needs of dogs and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in dogs
- natural dog behaviour, including body language, vocal and other forms of communication
- normal behaviour patterns:
 - activity levels appropriate for age and breed
 - normal feeding, resting and eliminative behaviour
 - social behaviour towards conspecifics and other species, including humans
- inappropriate behaviour:
 - destructive behaviour

- excessive vocalisation
- inappropriate arousal levels
- repetitive or stereotypic behaviour patterns
- signs of anxiety and distress
- dog enrichments, including:
 - food or food-related enrichment
 - physical enrichment items
 - occupational activity options
 - social enrichment
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- safe dog handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures, including personal protective equipment
- the principles of animal welfare
- types of food and food supplements and their role in dog diets
- types of information that is reported and recorded in animal care workplaces
- state/territory legislation and codes of practice related to domestic dogs, 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 domestic dogs
 - equipment and resources typically available in an animal care environment
- 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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