



**Australian Government**

# **ACMSPE307 Provide basic care of freshwater fish**

**Release: 1**

# ACMSPE307 Provide basic care of freshwater fish

## 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 freshwater fish 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 freshwater fish. This may include aquariums, pet stores, zoos, animal technology facilities, catchers and distributors 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 freshwater fish                      | 1.1 Define the profile of freshwater fish commonly held in facility, including habitat, nutrition, health and behavioural characteristics |

| <b>Element</b>                                         | <b>Performance criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>       | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                        | 1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology<br>1.3 Classify freshwater fish using industry terminology<br>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<br>2.2 Identify indicators of animal comfort and normal behaviour, and recognise signs of distressed freshwater fish and report to supervisor<br>2.3 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities<br>2.4 Evaluate current housing design in relation to the welfare of fish kept and legislation requirements<br>2.5 Implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific fish species |
| 3. Catch, handle and restrain freshwater fish          | 3.1 Identify WHS risks associated with handling and restraining freshwater fish, and implement methods to minimise risks<br>3.2 Approach, catch and restrain freshwater fish in a way that minimises risks to animal and others using a range of approved animal welfare procedures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4. Assist with health care needs                       | 4.1 Identify signs of good health in freshwater fish<br>4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor<br>4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures, and implement according to level of job responsibility<br>4.4 Identify options for health enrichment activities and implement as directed by supervisor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5. Feed freshwater fish                                | 5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to fish species-specific feeding routines and diets<br>5.2 Identify preferred feed sources and assess samples for quality and suitability<br>5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control options<br>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 according to schedule/feeding plan<br>5.6 Culture animal and plant species commonly used to feed freshwater fish                                                                                   |
| 6. Maintain records                              | 6.1 Complete feed and treatment records noting food consumption, health and care activities<br>6.2 Report abnormalities to supervisor<br>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           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret product labels accurately</li> </ul>                                                                                                     |
| Get the work done | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comply with relevant legislation requirements relating to freshwater fish</li> <li>Use problem-solving skills to prioritise daily tasks</li> </ul> |

## Unit Mapping Information

| Code and title current version                     | Code and title previous version                     | Comments                                                                                                               | Equivalence status |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ACMSPE307<br>Provide basic care of freshwater fish | ACMSPE307A<br>Provide basic care of freshwater fish | Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages<br>Minor changes to clarify content<br>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 ACMSPE307 Provide basic care of freshwater fish

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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 freshwater fish
- provided basic care for a minimum of two freshwater fish of different species, including (for each):
  - demonstrating appropriate safe handling techniques
  - preparing and providing food
  - assisting with housing care needs
- maintained feed and treatment records for one freshwater fish.

## 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 commonly maintained freshwater fish
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for freshwater fish
- housing and environmental factors related to fish wellbeing
- indicators of poor water quality, including:
  - colour
  - odour
  - unsuitable water chemistry parameters
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in freshwater fish
- signs of distressed fish, including:
  - any change in normal behaviour, including swimming patterns
  - discolouration
  - erratic swimming patterns

- fins clamped against body
- floating
- hiding
- immobility
- presence of external disease organisms
- subdued or aggressive behaviour
- enrichment activities
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing
- safe freshwater fish handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures
- the principles of animal welfare
- types of food and food supplements and their role in freshwater fish 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 freshwater fish, 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 freshwater fish
  - equipment and resources typically available in a fish 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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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>