



Australian Government

ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates

Release: 1

ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates

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 marine invertebrates 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 marine invertebrates. This may include aquariums, pet stores, zoos, animal technology facilities or similar workplaces. 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>
1. Identify marine invertebrates	1.1 Define the profile of marine invertebrates commonly held in facility, including habitat, nutrition, health and behavioural characteristics

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify marine invertebrates 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 marine invertebrates 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 in relation to the welfare of animals kept and legislation requirements 2.5 Implement behavioural enrichment activities
3. Catch, handle and restrain marine invertebrates	3.1 Identify WHS hazards associated with handling and restraining marine invertebrates and implement methods to minimise risks 3.2 Approach, catch and restrain marine invertebrates 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 marine invertebrates 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures and implement according to level of job responsibility 4.4 Identify options for health enrichment activities and implement as directed by supervisor
5. Feed marine invertebrates	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to species-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred feed sources and assess samples 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 according to schedule/feeding
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 marine invertebrates - Use problem-solving skills to prioritise daily tasks

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates	ACMSPE308A Provide basic care of marine aquatic invertebrates	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 ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates

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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 marine invertebrates
- provided basic care for a minimum of two marine invertebrates 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 a minimum of one invertebrate.

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 marine invertebrates
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for marine invertebrates
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in marine invertebrates
- housing, social and activity needs of marine invertebrates and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- natural marine invertebrate behaviour, including:
 - behaviours that vary according the time of day or night
 - behaviour characteristics associated with different species
 - defensive behaviour
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing
- indicators of poor water quality, including:

- colour
- odour
- unsuitable water chemistry parameters
- enrichment needs
- safe marine invertebrate 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 marine invertebrate diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species
- types of information that is reported and recorded in marine care workplaces
- state/territory legislation and codes of practice related to marine invertebrates, 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 marine invertebrates
 - equipment and resources typically available in a marine 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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