



Australian Government

ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates

Release: 1

ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater 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 terrestrial and freshwater 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 terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates. This may include aquariums, pet shops, 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>

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 terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates	1.1 Define the profile of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates commonly held in facility, including habitat, nutrition, health and behavioural characteristics 1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify terrestrial and freshwater 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 for freshwater species 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 2.3 Recognise signs of distressed terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates and report to supervisor 2.4 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities 2.5 Evaluate current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of animals kept and legislation requirements 2.6 Implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific species
3. Catch, handle and restrain terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates	3.1 Identify WHS associated with handling and restraining terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates, and implement methods to minimise risks 3.2 Approach, catch and restrain terrestrial and freshwater 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 terrestrial and freshwater 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 terrestrial and	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to species-specific

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
freshwater invertebrates	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 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 terrestrial and freshwater 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
ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater	ACMSPE309A Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages	Equivalent unit

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
invertebrates	invertebrates	Minor changes to clarify content Assessment 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 ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates

Modification History

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

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 terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates
- provided basic care for a minimum of one terrestrial and one freshwater invertebrate 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 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 terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates
- housing, social and activity needs of marine terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates, and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates
- natural terrestrial and freshwater invertebrate behaviour
- behaviour characteristics associated with different species:
 - activity levels at certain times of day or night
 - feeding behaviours
- defensive behaviour:

- defending territory, other animals or food
- hiding or retreating
- enrichment needs
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing
- safe terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates 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 terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates 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 terrestrial and freshwater 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 terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates
 - equipment and resources typically available in an invertebrate 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.

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>