



Australian Government

ACMSPE311 Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles

Release: 1

ACMSPE311 Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles

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 non-venomous reptiles 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 non-venomous reptiles. This may include animal shelters or rehabilitation organisations, zoos or similar workplaces. In some cases, animals may have been rescued from the wild, and successful rehabilitation is required to restore animal health and wellbeing before releasing back to their natural environment.

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>

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1. Identify reptiles	1.1 Define the profile of non-venomous reptiles commonly held in a facility, including habitat, nutrition, health and behavioural characteristics 1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify reptiles 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, heating and lighting and make adjustments to maintain the environment appropriate for the species being housed, as directed by supervisor 2.2 Recognise signs of distressed reptile 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 reptiles kept and legislation requirements 2.5 Assess and implement enrichment activities for specific reptile species
3. Catch, handle and restrain reptiles	3.1 Identify WHS risks associated with handling and restraining reptiles, and implement methods to minimise risks 3.2 Select and use appropriate equipment used to catch, handle and restrain reptiles 3.3 Approach and catch non-venomous reptiles while minimising risks to animal and others 3.4 Restrain reptiles using approved animal welfare management procedures
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in reptiles 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Implement general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures according to level of job responsibility 4.4 Identify options for enrichment activities and implement as directed by supervisor
5. Feed reptiles	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to reptile-specific feeding routines and diets

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	5.2 Identify preferred food 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 feed according to schedule/feeding plan
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 reptiles - Use problem-solving skills to prioritise daily tasks

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE311 Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles	ACMSPE311A Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Minor changes to clarify content	Equivalent unit

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
		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 ACMSPE311 Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles

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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 non-venomous reptiles
- provided basic care for a minimum of two common non-venomous reptiles from two different species, including (for each):
 - demonstrating appropriate restraint and safe handling techniques
 - preparing and providing food
 - assessing heating and lighting suitability and adjusting as appropriate
- maintained feed and treatment records for one non-venomous reptile.

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 reptiles, including:
 - lizards
 - monitors and goannas
 - non-venomous snakes
 - tortoises and turtles
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for reptiles
- housing, social and activity needs of reptiles and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in reptiles
- appropriate heat sources and temperature gradients
- appropriate lighting for reptile housing
- natural reptile behaviour, including:

- behaviour characteristics associated with different species
- defensive behaviours
- appropriate enrichment activities for reptiles
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing
- safe reptile 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 reptile diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species and appropriate plant recognition
- 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 non-venomous reptiles
 - equipment and resources typically available in reptile 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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