



Australian Government

ACMSPE312 Provide basic care of rodents and rabbits

Release: 1

ACMSPE312 Provide basic care of rodents and rabbits

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 rodents and rabbits 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 rodents and rabbits. This may include animal shelters, pet shops, zoos and animal technology facilities 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>

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 rodents and rabbits	1.1 Define the profile of rodents and rabbits commonly held in a facility, including habitat, nutrition, health and behavioural characteristics 1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify rodents and rabbits 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 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 Evaluate current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of animals kept and legislation requirements 2.5 Identify and implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific rodent and rabbit species
3. Catch, handle and restrain rodents and rabbits	3.1 Identify WHS risks associated with handling and restraining rodents and rabbits, and implement methods to minimise risks 3.2 Select and use appropriate equipment to catch, handle and restrain rodents and rabbits 3.3 Approach and catch rodents and rabbits safely 3.4 Restrain rodents and rabbits using approved animal welfare management procedures
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in rodents and rabbits 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures, and implement in accordance with level of job responsibility 4.4 Implement health enrichment activities as directed by supervisor
5. Feed and water rodents and rabbits	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to rodent- and rabbit-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred feed sources and assess samples for quality and suitability

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control options 5.4 Prepare food in accordance with dietary needs 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 'rodents and rabbits' - Use problem-solving skills to prioritise daily tasks

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE312 Provide basic care of rodents and rabbits	ACMSPE312A Provide basic care of rodents and rabbits	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Minor changes to clarify content Assessment	Equivalent unit

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
		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 ACMSPE312 Provide basic care of rodents and rabbits

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 physical and behavioural characteristics and needs of rodents and rabbits
- provided care for a minimum of two rabbits or two rodents, or one rabbit and one rodent, including (for each):
 - demonstrating appropriate restraint and safe handling techniques
 - preparing and providing food and water
 - assisting with routine health care needs
 - maintaining housing and bedding
- maintained feed and treatment records for one rabbit or one rodent.

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 rodents and rabbits
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for rodents and rabbits
- housing, social and activity needs of rodents and rabbits and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in rodents and rabbits
- natural rodent and rabbit behaviour
- characteristics that vary according to environmental conditions, including:
 - lighting
 - noise
 - temperature
 - the breeding season

- the species, breed, age and sex of the animals
- the time of day or night
- characteristics associated with different species, including:
 - activity levels at certain times of day or night
 - social interaction
 - feeding behaviours
 - enurination/spraying
- defensive and aggressive behaviours
- submissive gestures
- enrichment needs, including:
 - food or food-related enrichment
 - physical enrichment items
 - nest building or bedding material
 - social enrichment
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- safe rodent and rabbit handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures, including personal protective equipment
- types of food and food supplements and their role in rodent and rabbit 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 rabbit and a rodent
 - equipment and resources typically available in an animal 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

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>