



Australian Government

ACMSPE313 Provide general care of amphibians

Release: 1

ACMSPE313 Provide general care of amphibians

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify amphibians 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 commonly kept amphibians. This may include work in animal shelters or rehabilitation organisations, pet shops, 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.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Species Specific (SPE)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	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 amphibians	1.1 Define the habitat, activity cycle and general features of

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	amphibians commonly cared for in the facility 1.2 Identify and describe external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify amphibians according to taxonomy 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 amphibians 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 to ensure animal welfare needs are met 2.5 Implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific species of amphibian
3. Approach and handle amphibians	3.1 Identify workplace health and safety hazards associated with handling and restraining amphibians and implement controls to minimise risks 3.2 Select and use appropriate handling equipment and personal protective equipment to catch and handle amphibian 3.3 Approach amphibian safely 3.4 Handle amphibians using low stress handling techniques to minimise risks to the animal and others
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of health in amphibian 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
5. Feed amphibians	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to amphibian-specific feeding routines and diets 5.2 Identify preferred food source and assess samples for quality and suitability 5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control

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	options 5.4 Prepare food and approved supplements according to 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 key information and quantities specified on product labels accurately
Numeracy	Measure quantities of food and/or health treatments accurately

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMSPE313 Provide general care of amphibians	ACMSPE301 Provide basic care of amphibians	Changed title Minor changes to performance criteria for clarity Assessment requirements updated	Equivalent

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 ACMSPE313 Provide general care of amphibians

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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 habitat, activity cycle and general features and needs of two different species of amphibians
- provided general care for a minimum of two amphibians of different species, including for each:
 - demonstrated appropriate restraint and safe handling techniques
 - evaluated appropriate housing to ensure animal welfare needs are met
 - prepared and provided food
 - assisted with health care needs
 - maintained feed and husbandry records for each animal.

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 amphibians
- digestive system features of amphibians, including:
 - anatomical features
 - physiological features
 - feeding patterns and natural dietary requirements for the species
 - potential digestive system malfunctions or problems
 - water need
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for amphibians
- housing, social and activity needs of amphibians and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of physical condition and signs of good health in amphibians

- natural amphibian behaviour relating to the characteristics of the species, age, health status, behavioural and social needs, and the signs of distress, illness and undesirable behaviours
- enrichment needs, including:
 - food or food-related enrichment
 - physical enrichment items
 - social enrichment
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- principles of animal welfare and animal welfare assessment frameworks/models, including the Five Domains
- safe amphibian handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures
- types and impacts of food in amphibian diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species
- indicators of food quality, including nutritional value, freshness and shelf life, free from spoilage and pests
- types of information reported and recorded in animal care workplaces
- key requirements of Commonwealth and state/territory legislation, licensing and codes of practice related to captured wildlife, biosecurity, work health and safety and animal welfare.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - an animal care workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live amphibians as required for the performance evidence
 - equipment and resources typically available in an animal care facility including personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - organisational policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant codes of practice
- relationships:
 - 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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