



Australian Government

ACMSPE314 Provide general care of birds

Release: 1

ACMSPE314 Provide general care of birds

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 birds and their behavioural and physical needs, and provide daily care requirements.

The unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry where it may be necessary to care for commonly kept avicultural birds. This may include animal shelters or rehabilitation organisations, pet shops, breeding establishments, zoos or similar workplaces. In some cases, birds may have been rescued from the wild, and successful rehabilitation is required to restore bird health and wellbeing before releasing back to their natural environment.

This 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 commonly	1.1 Define habitat, activity cycle and general features of birds

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kept birds	commonly housed in facility 1.2 Identify and describe external features using industry terminology 1.3 Identify common birds 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 Identify indicators of bird 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 bird housing and nesting requirements to ensure animal welfare needs are met 2.5 Identify behavioural enrichment activities for specific bird species
3. Approach and handle birds	3.1 Identify workplace health and safety hazards associated with handling and restraining birds and implement controls to minimise risks 3.2 Select and use personal protective equipment to catch, handle and restrain birds 3.3 Approach, catch and restrain birds using low stress handling techniques and equipment to minimise risks to the animal and others
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in birds 4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor 4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures and implement in line with level of job responsibility
5. Feed and water birds	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to bird-specific feeding routines and diets 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 food and water according to schedule, feeding plan or animal requirements

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
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
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
ACMSPE314 Provide general care of birds	ACMSPE302 Provide basic care of birds	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 ACMSPE314 Provide general care of birds

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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 birds in two of the following groups:
 - parrots
 - raptors
 - passerines
 - fowls
 - pigeons
- provided general care for a minimum of three birds 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 bird.

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 birds
- overview of Aviculture Society services and guidelines
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for birds
- housing, nesting, social and activity needs of birds, and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing

- indicators of physical condition and signs of good health in birds, determined by observations of:
 - activity level
 - assessment of body condition
 - excessive self-scratching or self-mutilation
 - feather plucking
 - posture and attitude
 - response to stimuli
 - appetite and dietary history
 - feathers and faecal matter for any abnormalities
- indicators of stress or fear, including:
 - screeching
 - aggression
 - attempted reproductive behaviours
 - feather plucking
 - self-mutilation
- possible causes of distress, including:
 - frustration of natural behaviours
 - unfulfilled reproductive behaviour
 - lack of flight opportunity
 - inadequate socialisation for the species
- enrichment needs, including:
 - extras to daily base diet
 - physical enrichment items
 - social enrichment
 - access to native foliage and food
- potential hazards and risks to birds and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- safe bird handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures, including use of personal protective equipment
- methods used to safely approach and handle birds, including:
 - utilising catch cage facilities to allow for capture and restraint
 - positive reinforcement to encourage bird approach behaviours
- the principles of animal welfare and basic overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks/models, including the Five Domains
- types and impacts of food in bird 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, 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:
 - a range of live birds from the groups specified in 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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