



Australian Government

ACMSPE318 Provide general care of fish

Release: 1

ACMSPE318 Provide general care of fish

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 fish 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 marine and/or freshwater fish. This may include aquariums, pet stores, zoos, animal technology facilities, catchers and distributors or similar workplaces. 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 fish	1.1 Define the habitat, activity cycle and general features of fish commonly housed in facility 1.2 Identify and describe external features using industry terminology

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.3 Classify marine and freshwater fish 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 2.2 Identify indicators of normal behaviour 2.3 Recognise signs of distressed fish 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 fish species
3. Catch, handle and restrain fish	3.1 Identify workplace health and safety risks associated with handling and restraining fish 3.2 Implement methods to minimise safety risks and use appropriate personal protective equipment 3.3 Catch and restrain fish in a way that minimises risks, 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 fish 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 supervisor instructions
5. Feed fish	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to species-specific 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 according to dietary needs 5.5 Distribute food according to schedule, feeding plan 5.6 Culture animal and plant species commonly used to feed fish

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 Record abnormalities and advise 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
ACMSPE318 Provide general care of fish	ACMSPE306 Provide basic care of marine fish	Redesigned unit <i>ACMSPE306 Provide basic care of marine fish</i> and <i>ACMSPE307 Provide basic care of freshwater fish</i> merged Minor changes to make content generic to fish Assessment requirements updated to address marine and freshwater fish	Equivalent

ACMSPE318 Provide general care of fish	ACMSPE307 Provide basic care of freshwater fish	Redesigned unit <i>ACMSPE306 Provide basic care of marine fish and ACMSPE307 Provide basic care of freshwater fish merged</i> Minor changes to make content generic to fish Assessment requirements updated to address marine and freshwater fish	Equivalent
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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 ACMSPE318 Provide general care of fish

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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 marine and freshwater fish
- provided general care of fish selected from one of the following options:
 - two different species of marine fish
 - two different species of freshwater fish; or
 - one species of marine fish and one species of freshwater fish.

In doing the above, the individual must have:

- demonstrated appropriate safe handling techniques
- prepared and provided food
- evaluated appropriate housing and water quality to ensure the welfare of animals
- assisted with health care needs
- maintained feed and husbandry records for each fish.

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 commonly available marine and/or freshwater fish
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for fish, including water and tank management
- housing and environmental factors related to fish wellbeing
- indicators of poor water quality, including:
 - colour
 - odour

- unsuitable water chemistry parameters
- indicators of physical condition and signs of good health in fish
- signs of distressed fish, including:
 - any change in normal behaviour, including swimming patterns
 - discolouration
 - erratic swimming patterns
 - fins clamped against body
 - floating
 - hiding
 - immobility
 - presence of external disease organisms
 - subdued or aggressive behaviour
- enrichment activities
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- safe, low stress fish handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures, including personal protective equipment
- the principles of animal welfare and basic overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks/models, including the Five Domains
- types and impacts of food in fish diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species
- indicators of food quality, including nutritional value, veterinary approved diets, freshness and shelf life, free from spoilage and pests
- types of information reported and recorded in fish care workplaces
- key requirements of Commonwealth and state/territory legislation, licensing and codes of practice related to fish, 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 reflects a real workplace
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live fish (marine and/or freshwater) as specified in the performance evidence
 - equipment and resources typically available in a fish care environment, 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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