



Australian Government

ACMSPE319 Provide general care of invertebrates

Release: 1

ACMSPE319 Provide general care of invertebrates

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 invertebrates 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 terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates. This may include aquariums, pet shops, zoos, animal technology facilities or similar workplaces. 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 invertebrates	1.1 Identify key types of invertebrates using industry terminology 1.2 Define the profile of invertebrates commonly housed in facility

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 Identify external features 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 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 2.3 Recognise signs of distressed invertebrates 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 specific species
3. Catch, handle and restrain invertebrates	3.1 Identify workplace health and safety risks associated with handling and restraining invertebrates 3.2 Implement methods to minimise safety risks and use appropriate personal protective equipment 3.3 Approach, catch and restrain invertebrates 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 invertebrates 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 level of job responsibility
5. Feed invertebrates	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 in accordance with dietary needs 5.5 Distribute food according to feeding schedule

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
ACMSPE319 Provide general care of invertebrates	ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates	Redesigned unit <i>ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates</i> and <i>ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates</i> merged Minor changes to make content generic to invertebrates Updated assessment	Equivalent

		requirements to address terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates	
ACMSPE319 Provide general care of invertebrates	ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates	Redesigned unit <i>ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates and ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates merged</i> Minor changes to make content generic to invertebrates Updated assessment requirements to address terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates	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 ACMSPE319 Provide general care of invertebrates

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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 terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates
- provided general care for two invertebrates, either from:
 - two different classification groups – terrestrial, marine or freshwater; or
 - two different species of invertebrates from the same classification group.

In doing the above, the individual must have:

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

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 terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates
- housing, social and activity needs of invertebrates, and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of physical condition and signs of good health in invertebrates
- natural invertebrate behaviour
- behaviour characteristics associated with different species:

- activity levels at certain times of day or night
- feeding behaviours
- defensive behaviour:
 - defending territory, other animals or food
 - hiding or retreating
- enrichment needs
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses
- safe, low stress invertebrate species-specific 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 invertebrate 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 invertebrates, 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:
 - live invertebrates as stipulated in the performance evidence
 - equipment and resources typically available in an invertebrate 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.

Links

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