



Australian Government

ACMSPE321 Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles

Release: 1

ACMSPE321 Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles

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 non-venomous reptiles 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 non-venomous reptiles. This may include animal shelters or rehabilitation organisations, 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>

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1. Identify reptiles	1.1 Define the habitat, activity cycle and general features of non-venomous reptiles commonly housed in facility 1.2 Identify and describe external features using industry terminology 1.3 Classify reptiles 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, heating and lighting and make adjustments to maintain the environment appropriate for the species being housed, as directed by supervisor 2.2 Recognise signs of distressed reptile, 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 reptiles kept and legislation requirements 2.5 Assess and implement enrichment activities for specific reptile species
3. Catch, handle and restrain reptiles	3.1 Identify workplace health and safety risks associated with handling and restraining reptiles 3.2 Implement methods to minimise safety risks and use appropriate personal protective equipment 3.3 Select and use appropriate equipment to catch, handle and restrain reptiles 3.4 Approach, catch and restrain non-venomous reptiles using low stress handling techniques to minimise risks to the animal and others
4. Assist with health care needs	4.1 Identify signs of good health in reptiles 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 reptiles	5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to reptile-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

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	options 5.4 Prepare food in accordance with dietary needs 5.5 Distribute feed according to schedule or feeding plan
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 and in work instructions 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
ACMSPE321 Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles	ACMSPE311 Provide basic care of non-venomous reptiles	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 ACMSPE321 Provide general care of non-venomous reptiles

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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 at least two species of non-venomous reptiles
- provided general care for a minimum of two common non-venomous reptiles from two different species, including for each:
 - demonstrated appropriate restraint and safe handling techniques
 - prepared and provided food
 - evaluated housing and assessed heating and lighting suitability and adjusted as appropriate to ensure the welfare of reptiles
 - 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 reptiles, including:
 - lizards
 - monitors and goannas
 - non-venomous snakes
 - tortoises and turtles
- general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for reptiles
- housing, social and activity needs of reptiles and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
- indicators of physical condition and signs of good health in reptiles

- appropriate heat sources and temperature gradients
- appropriate lighting for reptile housing
- natural reptile behaviour, including:
 - behaviour characteristics associated with different species
 - defensive behaviours
- appropriate enrichment activities for reptiles
- potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing including zoonoses
- safe, low stress reptile 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 reptile 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 and quarantine, 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, non-venomous reptiles as required for the performance evidence
 - equipment and resources typically available in reptile 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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