



Australian Government

ACMVET403 Perform clinical pathology procedures

Release: 1

ACMVET403 Perform clinical pathology procedures

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 2.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to collect biological samples and perform pathology procedures, including maintaining the integrity of samples and preparing consignments for diagnostic laboratories.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who perform clinical pathology procedures need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of laboratory procedures and pathology tests.

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to veterinary nurses but vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users must check with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

NOTE: The terms ‘occupational health and safety’ (OHS) and ‘work health and safety’ (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Implement pathology	1.1 Clean and maintain pathology equipment according to

Element	Performance Criteria
procedures	manufacturer's instructions 1.2 Prepare patient for sampling procedure according to WHS requirements 1.3 Follow infection control and work health and safety procedures 1.4 Obtain samples as directed and place in labelled containers 1.5 Prepare slides for microscopic examination 1.6 Record patient and sample details 1.7 Facilitate sample transfer to laboratory 1.8 Receive, record and report laboratory test results using industry terminology
2. Perform and record appropriate tests as directed by veterinarian	2.1 Perform haematological and blood chemistry tests using specific laboratory equipment 2.2 Perform practice pathology tests 2.3 Record test results in practice patient record and notify the attending veterinarian
3. Assist with post-mortem examination	3.1 Prepare equipment for post-mortem as instructed 3.2 Label and store pathological samples 3.3 Dispose of post-mortem debris and biological wastes in line with legislative requirements

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	Access and follow manufacturer's instructions, practice policies and procedures, and relevant legislation
Writing	- Label specimens accurately - Record test results on patient chart and/or history
Get the work done	- Prepare biological samples in line with procedures - Address irregularities and contingencies in the context of the work role

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMVET403 Perform clinical pathology procedures	ACMVET403A Perform clinic pathology procedures	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Title updated Minor changes to clarify content Assessment requirements revised Work placement requirement included	No equivalent unit

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 ACMVET403 Perform clinical pathology procedures

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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:

- collected, appropriately handled, labelled and stored biological samples from a minimum two different species, including:
 - blood
 - faeces
 - urine
- collected, appropriately handled, labelled and stored biological samples of at least two of the following:
 - microbial swab
 - skin scrapings
 - hair samples
 - saliva
 - tissue
 - vomit
 - wound material
- prepared microscope and slides for examination
- performed practice laboratory tests and recorded results, including:
 - Diff-Quik
 - PCV
 - TPP
 - USG
- performed the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during a period of at least 240 hours of work in a veterinary practice.

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:

- animal anatomy and physiology related to practice pathology sampling procedures
- biological sample collection methods and procedures, appropriate biological sampling sites and relevant industry laboratory techniques and procedures
- types of laboratory tests
- blood tests, including:
 - biochemistry
 - haematocrit
 - haematology
 - total serum protein
 - white cell count
- microscopic examination of samples
- urinalysis
- use of dipstick tests
- Hendra virus exclusion tests
- setting-up and using a microscope
- routine microscope stains, including Gram, Diff-Quik
- types of pathology tests, including tests for antigens and antibodies, internal and external parasites
- faecal floats
- types of collection containers and their use
- set up for post-mortem
- equipment used during a post-mortem, including:
 - cleaning equipment trolleys
 - knives and needles
 - necropsy saw
 - scales
 - specimen containers
 - surgical instruments
 - personal protective equipment
- practice policies, procedures and WHS and infection control requirements related to the collection of pathology samples and disposal of sharps and biological waste
- normal ranges for pathology test results that veterinary nurses perform
- pathology tests and the requirements for sample preparation, handling, storing
- requirements for dispatch and transport of samples from practice
- record-keeping of tests and results
- quality assurance in pathology procedures.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - in the workplace or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of real animals
 - equipment and resources typically available in a veterinary practice
- specifications:
 - manufacturer's operating instructions for specialised equipment
 - organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - interactions with a registered veterinarian or minimum of Certificate IV qualified veterinary nurse.

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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