



Australian Government

ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines

Release: 1

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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 coordinate surgery schedules, prepare the surgical environment and provide support for the veterinary surgeon, including before, during and after routine and non-routine surgical procedures and monitoring patients (animals) while they are under anaesthesia.

This unit applies to veterinary nurses, who work independently under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who coordinate surgical routines need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of animal anatomy and physiology, and surgical procedures, typically carried out in a veterinary practice or hospital.

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.

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. Prepare surgery schedules	1.1 Prepare and prioritise surgery schedules using industry terminology in consultation with the veterinarian and theatre nurse 1.2 Prepare and collate consent forms, anaesthesia monitoring records and other surgical documentation according to practice

Element	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	policy 1.3 Manage surgery schedule in cooperation with the veterinarian
2. Prepare for surgical procedures	2.1 Communicate effectively with veterinarian and clients in relation to surgical preparation, procedures and post-recovery needs 2.2 Select and position surgical packs, equipment and supplies for scheduled procedures 2.3 Perform routine surgical site preparation procedures, including clipping, preparation of skin, and positioning animal 2.4 Position anaesthetic machine and monitoring equipment 2.5 Confirm that staff are appropriately dressed for surgery
3. Provide support for surgical routines	3.1 Hold, restrain or position anaesthetised animals during the surgical procedure 3.2 Provide sterile and non-sterile assistance to the veterinarian according to aseptic techniques 3.3 Provide theatre equipment to the veterinarian as required 3.4 Dispose of clinical and other waste in compliance with biosecurity and hazardous waste protocols
4. Perform post-operative procedures	4.1 Monitor wound or surgical site for signs of abnormality 4.2 Carry out defined post-operative patient management procedures according to veterinarian's instructions 4.3 Provide post-operative advice to the animal owner according to veterinarian's instructions
5. Clean, maintain and store theatre instruments, equipment and supplies	5.1 Clean theatre environs 5.2 Clean and sterilise instruments and theatre linen according to relevant Australian Standards 5.3 Handle and store sterilised instruments and theatre equipment in a manner that maintains sterility 5.4 Maintain equipment and stock of supplies 5.5 Implement equipment maintenance procedures to ensure machines are operational

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 information in policies and procedures, relevant Australian Standards and relevant legislation • Interpret consent forms and anaesthesia monitoring records
Numeracy	• Measure, monitor and interpret animal vital signs
Get the work done	• 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
ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines	ACMVET405A Carry out surgical nursing routines	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Titled updated to reflect changes to content Assessment requirements revised Two units merged into one Work placement requirement included	No equivalent unit
ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines	ACMVET408A Coordinate and perform theatre routines	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Titled updated to reflect changes to content Assessment requirements revised Two units merged into one 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 ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines

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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:

- coordinated and performed surgical nursing routines on a minimum of two occasions, covering at least two different species, including (for each):
 - preparing the surgical environment and personnel
 - maintaining asepsis and following aseptic techniques
 - preparing animals for anesthesia and surgical procedures as directed by the veterinarian
 - completing post-operative care patient routines
 - cleaning theatre and replenishing supplies
- 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 surgical nursing routines
- aseptic techniques in veterinary surgery, including general theatre etiquette, dress rules and restricted areas
- practice policies and procedures related to preparation and cleaning of surgical suites
- legislative requirements and health regulations for the storage, use and disposal of chemicals and biological waste from veterinary procedures
- practice protocols for the storage, use and disposal of chemicals and biological debris from veterinary surgical procedures
- surgery schedule considerations, including:
 - sterile and non-sterile

- body cavity invasive or superficial
- orthopaedic
- orthodontic
- soft tissue
- emergency or urgent
- presence of infection
- thoracic
- common surgical procedures and the appropriate equipment used for each, relevant to the practice
- skin antiseptics and their actions
- cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques
- surgical instruments and their use, including:
 - air-powered and electrical powered equipment
 - bone chucks
 - bone plates and screws
 - clamps
 - forceps
 - needle holders
 - retractors
 - scalpels
 - scissors
 - suture materials
- appropriate preparation of surgery packs, including identifying which packs are required for which procedures, grouping them for each patient and adding extra requirements, including scalpel blades and suture materials
- appropriate wound management procedures
- post-operative bandage, splint and cast care
- equipment used in theatre, including:
 - lighting
 - active warming
- surgical supplies and their use, including:
 - catheters
 - drains
 - laparotomy sponges
 - needles and sutures
 - swabs
 - syringes
- Australian Standards relevant to sterilisation techniques
- sterilisation techniques, including the operation of autoclaves and alternative sterilisation techniques, including gamma irradiation, ethylene oxide and chemical sterilisation and their associated health hazards

- anaesthetic equipment and supplies
- dangers related to anaesthetic agents
- audible, visual or measured signs of pain, including:
 - arching back
 - behavioural changes
 - biting and kicking
 - elevated temperature
 - increased respiration
 - increased vocalisation
 - withdrawal of affected limbs
 - straining
 - trembling and changes in normal physiology
- pain scoring systems
- vital signs and reflexes monitored under anaesthesia, including:
 - blood pressure
 - pulse rate and quality
 - respiratory rate and effort
 - rectal temperature
 - pulse oximetry and blood gases
 - end tidal carbon dioxide
 - electrocardiography
 - capillary refill time
 - palpebral reflex
 - heart rate and rhythm
 - mucous membrane colour
 - pedal withdrawal reflex
- relevant state and territory legislative requirements for animal welfare
- relevant Veterinary Surgeons' Act and Regulations.

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 surgery
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of real, live animals
 - equipment, instruments and resources typically available for veterinary surgery, including equipment used for post-operative care
- specifications:
 - access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice

- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - interactions with real clients
 - interactions with a registered veterinarian who regularly carries out surgical procedures on animals.

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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