



Australian Government

ACMVET406 Nurse animals

Release: 2

ACMVET406 Nurse animals

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 5.0.
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 provide high quality nursing care for patients (animals) treated or housed in a veterinary practice. It includes providing advice to clients (animal owners), monitoring animals and providing animal first aid as required.

This unit applies to veterinary nurses, who work independently under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who nurse animals need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of animal anatomy, physiology and pharmacology.

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

Elements	Performance Criteria
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<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Identify patients and monitor clinical signs	1.1 Identify patients according to features and fixed identification 1.2 Perform preliminary examination of animal, document results and communicate to the veterinarian 1.3 Interview client to obtain relevant information about animal 1.4 Establish patient needs in consultation with the veterinarian 1.5 Apply animal first aid according to veterinary advice
2. Communicate with clients concerning hospitalised patients	2.1 Counsel and inform clients of patient's progress and condition at regular intervals 2.2 Check patient records to ensure routines are communicated to client
3. Provide animal care in pain situations	3.1 Identify animal anatomy and physiology, pharmacology and a range of analgesics as they relate to nursing animals 3.2 Identify and record audible, visual or measurable signs of pain to assist in the identification of the need for analgesics 3.3 Identify and report behavioural changes indicating pain 3.4 Use an empathetic and caring approach in the husbandry of animals in pain 3.5 Use compassionate and safe handling techniques according to WHS requirements 3.6 Use industry recognised pain management techniques to minimise patient trauma
4. Care for animals	4.1 Provide nursing intervention for individual animals 4.2 Implement prescribed routines and record treatments 4.3 Carry out and record patient observations using industry terminology 4.4 Return animals to owner or housing after treatment
5. Care for hospitalised animals	5.1 Provide basic animal welfare requirements 5.2 Maintain environment specifically required for individual animals 5.3 Monitor and facilitate patient's bodily functions 5.4 Carry out and record regular monitoring of patients 5.5 Carry out industry-recognised animal psychological support in conjunction with patient monitoring

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
Numeracy	• Weigh and measure animals • Monitor animal vital signs • Calculate, measure and administer treatments as directed
Get the work done	• Observe animals to recognise signs of pain or changes in condition • Problem-solve appropriate strategies for pain management techniques • 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
ACMVET406 Nurse animals Release 2	ACMVET406 Nurse animals Release 1	Corrected terminology error in Performance Evidence	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 ACMVET406 Nurse animals

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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:

- provided nursing care for a minimum of two hospitalised animals, covering at least two species, including:
 - observing patients and maintaining accurate records for clinical signs, pain and behavioural changes
 - informing clients of patient's progress
 - handling animals appropriately and providing psychological care techniques to reduce stress and discomfort
- implemented prescribed routines, including:
 - bandage and wound care
 - providing exercise and physical therapy
 - providing enrichment
 - supporting toileting
 - providing nutritional support
 - calculating drug and intravenous (IV) fluid dosages
 - managing indwelling apparatus, including catheters, intravenous catheters or feeding tubes
- provided animal first aid as required for at least two of the following:
 - haemorrhage
 - fractures or dislocations
 - burns
 - shock
 - proptosis
 - head trauma

- envenomation
- poisoning
- lacerations
- respiratory distress/dyspnea
- 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 behaviour characteristics and traits
- animal pain management procedures and techniques
- techniques to measure animal vital signs, including:
 - blood pressure
 - pulse rate and quality
 - respiratory rate and effort
 - rectal temperature
 - pulse oximetry and blood gases
 - electrocardiograph (ECG)
 - capillary refill time
 - palpebral reflex
 - heart rate and rhythm
 - mucous membrane colour
 - pedal withdrawal reflex
 - end tidal carbon dioxide
- signs of pain, including:
 - biting, kicking and scratching
 - increased blood pressure
 - elevated temperature
 - increased heart rate
 - increased respiration
 - increased vocalisation
 - pale mucous membranes
 - straining or arching of the back
 - trembling and changes in normal physiology
 - protecting/guarding effected area
 - hiding
 - inappetence
- objective pain scoring systems

- barrier nursing principles
- animal anatomy and physiology, applied pharmacology and a range of analgesics related to nursing animals
- work health and safety and animal welfare legislative regulations and requirements
- routine animal health advice
- veterinary medications and chemicals, the relevant poisons schedule and the legislative requirements relevant to their use.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency 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, live animals
 - equipment, instruments and resources typically available for nursing animals
- specifications:
 - 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 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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