



Australian Government

ACMVET408 Provide nutritional advice and support for animals

Release: 2

ACMVET408 Provide nutritional advice and support for 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 to provide advice to animal owners about the nutritional requirements of specific animals, and support nutritional needs of hospitalised patients across a range of medical and surgical conditions.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work independently, under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who provide animal care advice need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of animal anatomy, physiology, health and nutrition for different life stages and conditions.

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. Assess nutritional requirements of animals	1.1 Evaluate the patient's needs as the basis for provision of support and advice 1.2 Document animal's dietary history 1.3 Classify animals according to natural nutrient sources and types of digestive systems 1.4 Align normal feeding behaviours and nutritional requirements of animal for stage of life 1.5 Evaluate feeding strategies and methods to maximise enrichment 1.6 Identify characteristics of under or over supply of nutrients
2. Evaluate food sources and calculate dietary requirements	2.1 Interpret nutritional information on food label 2.2 Identify most appropriate feeding method for animal 2.3 Evaluate methods used to monitor nutritional uptake 2.4 Identify WHS hazards to animal and human health from food sources and implement procedures to manage risks 2.5 Determine feed and water requirements based on animal profile 2.6 Estimate protein, carbohydrate, vitamin and mineral supplement and fibre needs based on animal profile 2.7 Identify other dietary issues relevant to the animal and factor into dietary calculations
3. Assess and provide nutritional needs of hospitalised patient	3.1 Evaluate the patient's need for method of supported feeding 3.2 Align the nutritional requirements to the animal's condition 3.3 Prepare patient for feeding 3.4 Feed animal in line with the animal's nutritional plan, using supporting equipment and methods, as required
4. Plan and monitor animal nutrition	4.1 Prepare and document nutrition and feeding plan for client 4.2 Demonstrate feeding technique to client 4.3 Provide advice for monitoring animal diet including feed intake, feeding behaviour, condition, metabolic and behavioural changes

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 food labels, including ration definitions such as 'balanced' and 'complete'
Oral communication	- Use appropriate industry terminology to discuss nutritional support - Discuss, question and clarify information with animal owner
Numeracy	Determine and measure rations and doses
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
ACMVET408 Provide nutritional advice and support for animals Release 2	ACMVET408 Provide nutritional advice and support for animals Release 1	Corrected typographical 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 ACMVET408 Provide nutritional advice and support for 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 specific nutritional advice for a minimum of two animals from different species, with different medical conditions, including two of the following:
 - renal disease
 - liver disease
 - pancreatitis
 - cardiac disease
 - diabetes
 - joint disease
 - obesity
 - urinary tract disease
- fed a minimum of one animal using an assisted feeding method, including one of the following:
 - syringe feeding
 - crop feeding
 - tube feeding
 - bottle feeding
- 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 classifications that influence dietary needs and eating behaviour
- practice policies and procedures related to providing advice
- components of animal digestive systems and feeding behaviours of species serviced by the practice
- behavioural features related to feeding styles and unsuitable responses to diets
- feedstuffs available and approved in Australia for animals, their availability, cost, shelf life, method of storage, preparation and presentation to animals
- medical and surgical conditions that require specific diets or assisted feeding
- nutrition-related diseases
- protein, carbohydrate, vitamin and mineral supplement and fibre needs for a range of animal groups
- nutritional requirements and considerations of different species serviced by the practice, including:
 - environmental interactions, including housing and exercise options
 - gestation and lactation
 - life stage (growth, geriatrics, young animal feeding)
 - obesity control
 - surgical or disease rehabilitation
 - working and performance
- sources of nutrients for particular animal classes and groups
- information on:
 - additives
 - maintenance of energy requirements
 - adverse reactions
 - feeding regimes
 - feeding levels
 - lactation and gestation
 - supplements and commercial foods
 - treats
- information on prescribed diets:
 - diets necessary with disease
 - obesity and weight reduction diets
 - life stage diets (young, active or old)
- feeding regimes for conditions, including:
 - anorexia
 - cardiovascular disease
 - diabetes mellitus

- gastrointestinal tract disorders
- hospital feeding
- intensive care
- malnutrition
- neoplasia
- obesity
- pancreatitis
- urinary system disease
- urolithiasis
- the potential causes of poor response to diets and tests used to investigate dietary problems
- the value of home-prepared rations versus commercially-prepared diets
- feeding methods, including:
 - hand feeding
 - syringe feeding
 - crop feeding
 - total parenteral nutrition (TPN)
 - gastrostomy tube
 - Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastronomy (PEG) tube
- procedures maintaining feeding tubes
- appropriate care for a patient being tube fed
- state or territory legislation and regulations relating to work health and safety and animal welfare
- Veterinary Surgeons' Act requirements.

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 or hospital
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of real, live animals
 - equipment and resources typically available in a veterinary practice
- specifications:
 - access to 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.

Links

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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>