



Australian Government

ACMVET410 Carry out veterinary dental nursing procedures

Release: 1

ACMVET410 Carry out veterinary dental nursing procedures

Modification History

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

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to perform dental prophylaxis and assist with simple extractions. Dental prophylaxis involves oral examinations of the conscious and anaesthetised patient, sub- and supra-gingival tooth scaling and polishing, and the subsequent development of a homecare plan, as well as assisting in the performance of simple dental extractions.

Veterinary dental nursing procedures are most often carried out on dogs and cats.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work independently, under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who carry out dental nursing procedures need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of anatomy of the animal oral cavity, including teeth, bone and gums.

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
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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. Perform oral examination	1.1 Identify anatomy of the oral cavity, including teeth, bone and gingiva as it relates to dental procedures 1.2 Perform extra and intraoral examination of the conscious patient 1.3 Restrain and position patient for examination and anaesthetic induction 1.4 Conduct extra and intraoral examination of the patient under anaesthesia 1.5 Record and report findings to the veterinary surgeon using industry terminology
2. Complete dental chart	2.1 Record patient details and current home dental care 2.2 Use a recognised dental encoding system 2.3 Record veterinary surgeon's pre-treatment pathology and treatment plan 2.4 Record post-treatment dentition using industry terminology
3. Perform dental procedures under veterinary supervision	3.1 Follow safe work practices and wear required personal protective equipment 3.2 Set up the dental station, associated dental equipment and dental table 3.3 Position patient for dental procedure 3.4 Carry out routines specific for dental prophylaxis and provide dental equipment to the veterinarian 3.5 Comply with WHS, animal welfare, biosecurity, hazard management and hygiene requirements related to dental prophylaxis and surgical procedures 3.6 Clean and polish teeth following the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Dental Policy and Guidelines 3.7 Assist the veterinarian with simple extractions 3.8 Clean, sharpen and maintain dental instruments and equipment during procedure 3.9 Document veterinarian's post-operative patient management programs using industry terminology
4. Undertake post-dental treatment routines	4.1 Clean, sharpen, maintain and store dental instruments and equipment 4.2 Monitor patient post-operatively for signs of abnormality and

Element	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	pain, and report findings to veterinarian 4.3 Provide post-dental advice to the animal owner according to veterinarian's instructions

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 and follow relevant policies and procedures, and the Australian Veterinary Association Dental Policy and Guidelines
Numeracy	- Calculate and record medication dosages - Effectively monitor anaesthesia
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
ACMVET410 Carry out veterinary dental nursing procedures	ACMVET410A Carry out veterinary dental nursing procedures	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages 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 ACMVET410 Carry out veterinary dental nursing 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:

- prepared, sharpened, cleaned and maintained equipment and instruments for dental procedures
- performed an oral examination on a minimum of two different animals, covering both canine and feline patients, including:
 - observed, recorded and reported on animal condition, health and dental procedures and history
 - examined and recorded in a dental chart the pre- and post-treatment condition of the oral cavity
 - performed dental prophylaxis (cleaning and polishing) under veterinary supervision
 - provided post-operative care and home advice for patient
- assisted with a minimum of one simple extraction
- 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:

- anatomy of the oral cavity, including teeth, bone and gums
- Australian Veterinary Association Dental Policy and Guidelines
- post-operative homecare advice to reduce dental and gingival disease, including dietary recommendations, appropriate oral-care products and procedures available and the principles and practice of daily brushing for relevant species
- instruments and equipment required to perform a dental prophylaxis under general anaesthetic and simple teeth extractions

- safe set up and effective use of dental machine (veterinary nurse may or may not use all components, but must be able to set up for veterinary use), including:
 - water supply
 - suction
 - oral irrigation (air/water flush)
 - low speed hand-piece (polishing head)
 - polishing cups and prophylaxis paste
 - high speed hand-piece (dental bur/drill)
- safe set up and effective use of hand-held instruments, including:
 - dental explorers and probes
 - dental elevators
 - root pick
 - retractors and gags
 - toothpaste
 - toothbrush
- techniques used to maintain serviceability of instruments and equipment in clean, sharp and lubricated condition
- work health and safety and animal welfare legislative requirements and codes of practice related to dental procedures
- personal protective equipment required in veterinary dental procedures
- post-operative care and home advice
- techniques for performing dental prophylaxis and assisting with simple extractions
- biosecurity, hazard management and hygiene requirements related to dental prophylaxis and dental surgical 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 or dental surgery
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of real, live animals
 - equipment and resources typically available in a veterinary dental surgery
- specifications:
 - access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice and guidelines
 - access to organisational policies and procedures for dental processes
- 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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