



Australian Government

ACMVET510 Apply veterinary nursing pathophysiology

Release: 1

ACMVET510 Apply veterinary nursing pathophysiology

Modification History

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

Application

This unit covers the fundamentals of disease and common disease processes. It includes diagnostic tests, treatment options and nursing care.

This unit applies to veterinary nurses with extensive vocational expertise who are responsible for providing advanced nursing skills and support for veterinarians in general practice. It is assumed that such nurses will have a leadership role in their practice and use specialised skills and knowledge for pathophysiological work.

This unit applies to veterinary nurses who work in a veterinary practice under the supervision of a registered veterinarian.

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
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>

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1. Interpret fundamentals of disease	1.1 Collect detailed patient history from client 1.2 Assist with physical examination of the patient's body systems 1.3 Assist to identify clinical signs consistent with basic disease processes 1.4 Assist in conducting effective triage of patients 1.5 Advise veterinarian of patient history and clinical signs using industry standard terminology
2. Assist diagnosis of disease by a veterinarian	2.1 Collect and process diagnostic samples and report results to veterinarian 2.2 Assist to determine causative agents or contributing factors in support of veterinary diagnosis 2.3 Comply with infection control, WHS and animal welfare requirements in disease outbreak scenarios 2.4 Implement strategies to prevent zoonosis
3. Coordinate veterinary treatments for disease processes	3.1 Identify the benefits from, and potential adverse responses to, veterinary medications used in general practice 3.2 Assist with preparation and administration of veterinary medications 3.3 Implement appropriate treatment as directed by a veterinarian 3.4 Use safe waste handling and disposal procedures
4. Manage outpatients under treatment for disease	4.1 Provide specific written and verbal instructions to clients 4.2 Identify environmental factors relevant to the management of common disease processes 4.3 Coordinate follow up procedures that encourage owner compliance and monitor patient progress

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
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Skill	Description
Get the work done	• Work with other team members and under veterinarian's directions to coordinate diagnostic tests, treatment regimens and follow up 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
ACMVET510 Apply veterinary nursing pathophysiology	ACMVET510A Apply veterinary nursing pathophysiology	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 ACMVET510 Apply veterinary nursing pathophysiology

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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 applied veterinary nursing pathophysiology, including:

- collected a detailed patient history of two animals
- collected, stored and processed samples for a minimum of ten clinical pathology tests on five or more patients
- assisted with each of the following, at least once:
 - performing effective physical examination
 - conducting effective triage of patients
 - administering fluid therapy including blood products
 - administering medications by intravenous means, including using fluid pumps
 - identifying cause and clinical signs of common disease processes
- identified abnormal body function in a minimum of three animals
- implemented practice protocols and procedures for the prevention of zoonosis in a range of companion animals
- complied with relevant infection control and workplace health and safety requirements
- identified benefits from and adverse responses to a range of veterinary medications used in general practice
- managed outpatients
- 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:

- after care requirements, including wound management, nutrition, exercise, physical therapy and environment
- potential benefits from and adverse responses to a range of veterinary medications used in general practice
- anatomy and function of the eleven body systems
- animal nutrition and husbandry
- basic disease processes, including:
 - inflammation
 - infection
 - neoplasia
 - heritable and congenital abnormalities
 - endocrine disorders
 - toxicity
- causative agents or contributing factors in disease and infection
- common infectious diseases, including zoonosis
- detailed physical examination, including:
 - patient behaviour and clinical signs
 - demeanour and stance
 - full examination from nose to tail, including all body systems
 - mucous membrane colour and capillary refill time
 - auscultation of the chest
 - palpation of the abdomen
 - rectal temperature
 - pulse and respiratory rates
- purpose and techniques involved in diagnostic tests, including:
 - antigen test
 - biochemistry
 - biopsy
 - blood cross match
 - cytology
 - haematology
 - faecal floatation
 - fluid analysis
 - fine needle aspirate
 - fungal assay
 - hormone assay
 - microbial culture and sensitivity (MC&S) preparation
 - sediment examination
 - serological tests, including enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) tests on blood serum to detect antigen or antibodies (evidence of infection)
 - smear

- skin scrape
- urinalysis
- types and pharmacology of veterinary medications, including:
 - anaesthetic induction agents
 - analgesics
 - antibiotics
 - anticonvulsants
 - antiemetics
 - corticosteroids
 - cytotoxic drugs
 - emetics
 - hormones
 - non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
 - sedatives
 - vitamins
 - other drugs as directed
- principles of triage in relation to clinical signs and disease management
- state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science, work health and safety and animal welfare in relation to disease outbreak and management
- signs of common disease processes in companion animals
- safe waste disposal in disease outbreaks.

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, live animals
 - equipment, instruments and resources typically available in a veterinary practice where medical and surgical procedures are routinely performed
- specifications:
 - access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice
 - drug and poison schedules and legislation
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - interactions with real clients
 - interactions with a registered veterinarian.

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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