



Australian Government

ACMVET511 Apply principles of animal behaviour

Release: 1

ACMVET511 Apply principles of animal behaviour

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 assess and respond to animal behaviour in general veterinary practice. It requires a holistic application of veterinary nursing, distinguishing normal and abnormal behaviours, acceptable and unacceptable behaviours, current behavioural therapies, animal legislation and effective client communication.

This unit applies to veterinary nurses with extensive vocational expertise who are responsible for providing advanced nursing skills and support for veterinarians with a special interest in animal behaviour. It is assumed that such nurses will have a leadership role in their practice and apply specialised knowledge of animal behaviour to promote responsible pet ownership within the veterinary practice and with animal owners.

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

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. Promote responsible pet ownership	1.1 Identify basic animal needs and relate to behavioural patterns 1.2 Advise clients on the benefits of socialisation and humane training methods 1.3 Advise clients on behavioural issues and legal responsibilities of pet ownership
2. Interpret animal behaviour	2.1 Identify anatomy and physiology as it relates to the stress response and behaviour management in animals 2.2 Review animal learning theory and identify current techniques in behavioural management 2.3 Provide appropriate environment and enrichment to promote and support normal behaviour in species 2.4 Investigate socialising, environmental and activity behaviours in different species 2.5 Determine a range of acceptable and unacceptable animal behaviours in different species 2.6 Collect patient histories and identify a range of normal and abnormal behaviours in different species 2.7 Assess the physical and social environment of the patient 2.8 Assess risks or hazards to patient, other animals, self, owner, staff and public 2.9 Inform the veterinarian of identified behavioural issues
3. Facilitate behavioural consults	3.1 Coordinate appropriate actions to reduce risk according to WHS requirements and practice policies as directed by veterinarian 3.2 Assist in providing an appropriate environment for each behaviour consultation to occur 3.3 Provide nursing support for behavioural consultations 3.4 Provide appropriate behavioural advice as directed by veterinarian 3.5 Prepare behavioural medications according to legislative requirements and as prescribed or directed by the veterinarian
4. Provide after care for behavioural cases	4.1 Design behaviour modification plan for patients using current humane methods that complies with legislative requirements 4.2 Educate clients on behaviour management and implementation of behaviour modification plans 4.3 Follow up and review behaviour modification plans in response to patient outcomes and progress with veterinarian

Element	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	4.4 Provide grief support to clients as required

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	Read and analyse a variety of research texts in relation to animal behaviour and animal learning theory, and apply outcomes to client education programs
Oral communication	Presentation skills to conduct client education programs
Get the work done	- Apply problem-solving skills to use available resources and anticipate veterinarians' requirements - 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
ACMVET511 Apply principles of animal behaviour	ACMVET511A Apply principles of animal behaviour	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 ACMVET511 Apply principles of animal behaviour

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria skills in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- developed and delivered a minimum of three animal behaviour programs, covering two species, that benefits animals or animal owners, including (for each):
 - collecting patient histories and identifying normal and abnormal animal behaviours
 - determining acceptable and unacceptable animal behaviours
 - providing nursing support for behavioural consultations
 - designing a behaviour modification program
 - providing follow-up support for client
- reviewed a minimum of one behaviour education program for an animal who was prescribed a behavioural modification drug
- 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 relating to the stress response and behaviour management
- animal learning theory and current techniques in behavioural management
- early socialisation and physical environment requirements of animals
- animal nutrition and husbandry related to behaviour
- common behavioural problems in companion animals
- abnormal behaviour and the potential role of physical illness in behavioural problems
- fundamentals of animal behaviour
- principles of animal welfare and ethics in behaviour management
- rights of animals

- legal responsibilities of pet ownership
- normal animal behaviour, development and communication
- medications commonly used to manage behavioural disorders
- nursing support of behavioural management, including:
 - directing clients
 - collecting history
 - restraining animals
 - performing a physical examination
 - producing reports
 - supplying medications
 - organising revisits and other follow-up procedures
 - coordinating referrals when required
- relevant state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science, work health and safety and animal welfare
- relevant state or territory legislation covering the use of therapeutic and controlled substances
- client education programs
- risks and hazards related to animal behavior.

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 animals that require behavioural treatment
 - equipment, instruments and resources typically available for 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 real clients
 - interactions with a registered veterinarian with a special interest in animal behaviour.

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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