



Australian Government

ACMVET504A Provide veterinary dental nursing support for advanced veterinary dental surgery

Release 2

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Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comments
2	ACM10v3	Application of the unit clarified Reference to OHS legislation replaced with generic terminology
1	ACM10v1	Initial release. Supersedes and is equivalent to RUV5604A

Unit Descriptor

This Unit of Competency covers the process of providing veterinary dental nursing support for advanced veterinary dental surgery.

Application of the Unit

This Unit is specifically designed for nurses who work in a veterinary clinic or hospital, or a specialist or referral veterinary dental clinic/hospital where registered veterinary dental specialists perform advanced veterinary dentistry procedures. Providing veterinary dental nursing support for advanced veterinary dental surgery requires access to a veterinary clinic/hospital that performs advanced veterinary dentistry, or a specialist or referral veterinary dental clinic/hospital; veterinarians who perform advanced and specialist dental procedures; patients and clients requiring veterinary dental oral cavity radiographs and specialised dental procedures; and the equipment, instruments and resources required to perform all seven veterinary dentistry disciplines.

Candidates must have access to veterinarians who perform advanced dental procedures and are, at a minimum, Members of the Australia and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Veterinary Dental Chapter (MANZCVS).

In addition to legal and ethical responsibilities, all Units of Competency in the ACM10 Animal Care and Management Training Package have the requirement for animals to be handled gently and calmly. The individual is required to exhibit appropriate care for animals so that stress and discomfort is minimised.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements may apply to this Unit. Therefore, it will be necessary to check with the relevant state or territory regulators for current licensing, legislative or regulatory requirements before undertaking this Unit.

Pre-Requisites

Nil

Employability Skills Information

This Unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a Unit of Competency.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.
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Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Carry out admission procedures	1.1. Patient dental history is compiled in accordance with workplace health and safety and veterinarian requirements. 1.2. Referral and associated documentation are coordinated as requested by the veterinarian. 1.3. Dental pathology and diagnostic aid results are collated in accordance with patient needs.
2. Prepare theatre and personnel for dental surgery	2.1. Theatre furniture and equipment are prepared for specific dental surgery in accordance with workplace health and safety and clinic requirements. 2.2. Patient radiographs for the scheduled procedure are displayed. 2.3. Dental equipment and sterile dental packs are accessed and checked. 2.4. Gloving and gowning procedures are completed in accordance with clinic policies.
3. Prepare patient for dental surgery	3.1. Specific anaesthetic procedures are applied under veterinarian supervision. 3.2. Administration of pre-operative medications is performed under veterinarian supervision. 3.3. Patient is suitably positioned on the operating table and restraints are applied. 3.4. Endotracheal tube is examined to ensure it is functioning and pharyngeal pack is applied.
4. Prepare specific materials and anticipate veterinarians' requirements	4.1. Specific dental materials appropriate for the scheduled procedures are prepared. 4.2. Progress of surgery and veterinarian's requirements are anticipated and responded to positively. 4.3. Dental instruments, equipment and materials are handed to the veterinarian as requested. 4.4. Specific dental surgical support is provided as directed by the veterinarian. 4.5. Record of procedure is taken and maintained in accordance with clinic policies and procedures. 4.6. Clinical and other hazardous waste is disposed of safely in accordance with workplace health and safety and local government requirements.
5. Clean, store and maintain dental instruments and equipment	5.1. Packed dental instruments and equipment are cleaned or sterilised in accordance with manufacturers' specifications and clinic policies. 5.2. Packed sterilised and non-sterilised dental instruments and equipment are stored in an

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
	appropriate environment and atmosphere. 5.3. Damaged and ineffective dental surgery instruments, equipment and their attachments are identified in cooperation with other clinic staff and replaced or set aside for repair and/or maintenance. 5.4. Maintenance routines for dental instruments and equipment are completed as directed by the veterinarian and in accordance with clinic policies and workplace health and safety requirements.
6. Communicate with client and discharge patient	6.1. Patient progress is regularly reported to client in accordance with veterinarian's instructions. 6.2. Specific home-nursing requirements are communicated to client in accordance with veterinarian's instructions. 6.3. Instructions on the administration of prescribed medications are detailed to the client.

Required Skills and Knowledge

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this Unit.

Required skills

Ability to:

- communicate effectively with owners and veterinarians providing advice
- complete relevant work-related documentation
- employ safe and environmentally responsible organisational systems and procedures when working with and handling animals
- identify and carry out a range of maintenance routines on dental equipment and instruments
- maintain the highest standards of hygiene and infection control at all times to reduce the risk of infection and cross-infection
- monitor patient vital signs
- observe accurately and report on animal condition and health
- recognise, respond to and assist with emergencies
- record dental nomenclature and details
- use literacy skills to read, select and implement policies and procedures, including workplace health and safety, infection control and other clinic policies and procedures; coordinate patient admission and discharge; implement sequenced written and oral instructions; and record patient details accurately and legibly
- use interpersonal skills to relate to people from a range of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and with a range of physical and mental abilities
- use oral communication skills/language required to fulfil the job role as specified by the clinic, including negotiating and questioning techniques, active listening, asking for clarification from veterinarian, and acknowledging and responding to a range of views
- use numeracy skills to calculate pre-operative and postoperative medications
- use problem-solving skills to use available resources and anticipate veterinarians' requirements
- use safe manual handling techniques and/or equipment
- use safe waste handling and disposal procedures
- work closely with the supervising veterinarian and as part of a theatre team.

Required knowledge

Knowledge of:

- animal anatomy and physiology
- animal dental health
- cleaning and hygiene procedures in dental surgery
- dental procedures and requirements for periodontics, endodontics, restorative dentistry, oral surgery, prosthodontics, orthodontics and exotic animal dentistry
- equipment sterilisation and calibration procedures and techniques

- industry-standard gloving and gowning procedures
- instrument sharpening techniques
- principles of animal welfare and ethics
- relevant state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science, workplace health and safety and animal welfare
- relevant state or territory legislation covering the use of therapeutic and controlled substances
- safe work practices
- surgical dental procedures and terminology
- prophylactic strategies used in dental care
- veterinary dental instruments and equipment and their uses
- workplace hygiene standards, disinfectants and sterilisation, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials.

Evidence Guide

The Evidence Guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Overview of assessment	
Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this Unit	The evidence required to demonstrate competence in this Unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy all of the requirements of the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge and the range statement of this Unit. Assessors should ensure that candidates can: • assist the veterinarian and work as an effective team member during all procedures including periodontics, endodontics, restorative dentistry, oral surgery, prosthodontics, orthodontics and exotic animal dentistry • prepare the theatre, patients, personnel and all relevant materials and equipment for dental surgery • record accurately anaesthetic levels and dental nomenclature and details • clean, maintain and store dental instruments and equipment in accordance with manufacturers' specifications • communicate effectively with clients prior to surgery and post-operatively in respect to specific home-nursing requirements.
Context of and specific resources for assessment	Assessment of this Unit is to be practical in nature and must be assessed in a clinic or hospital, a specialist veterinary dental clinic or hospital, or a referral veterinary dental clinic or hospital where registered veterinary dental specialists perform advanced veterinary dentistry. There must be access to the appropriate dental equipment, resources and documentation to enable one to demonstrate competence.
Method of assessment	To ensure consistency of performance, competency should be demonstrated by providing veterinary dental nursing support for an extensive range of advanced veterinary dental surgery cases on a regular basis over a period of time. The assessment strategy must include practical skills assessment. Suggested strategies for this Unit are: • written and/or oral assessment of candidate's required

	knowledge • observed, documented and first-hand testimonial evidence of candidate's application of practical tasks • simulation exercises that reproduce normal work conditions • case study analysis • third-party evidence • workplace documentation • portfolio. This Unit may be assessed in a holistic way with other Units of Competency relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role.
Guidance information for assessment	Assessment methods should reflect workplace demands (e.g. literacy and numeracy demands) and the needs of particular target groups (e.g. people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people with a language background other than English, youth and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds).

Range Statement

The range statement relates to the Unit of Competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

<i>Patient dental history</i> may include:	• diagnostic test results • pathological test results • previous referrals.
<i>Workplace health and safety</i> risks when working with animals may include:	• animal bites, kicks, scratches and crush injuries • biological hazardous waste and sharps disposal • handling of chemicals and medicines • gas leakage • inhalation of aerosol particles • intraocular contamination • manual handling, including carrying, lifting and shifting • needle pricks and cuts from other sharps • release of infective agents (animal and human) • slippery or uneven work surfaces • zoonoses.
<i>Theatre furniture and equipment</i> may include:	• air-driven dental base, including high and low speed hand pieces • amalgamator saws, pumps and elevators • anaesthetic machine • chisels and curettes • curing lights • endodontic files • endotracheal tubes and cuffs • forceps • operating table • pharyngeal packs • radiograph displays • sterile dental packs • suction equipment • surgical instrument trays and trolleys • ultrasonic and sonic dental scalers.
<i>Gloving and gowning</i> may include:	• personal hygiene and scrubbing • fitting of:

	• boots • gloves • goggles • gowns • masks.
<i>Pre-operative medications</i> may include:	• analgesics • antibiotics.
<i>Specific dental materials</i> may include:	• pins • plates • prothesis • restorative materials • screws • sutures • wire.
<i>Scheduled procedures</i> may include:	• periodontics • endodontics • restorative dentistry • oral surgery • prosthodontics • orthodontics • exotic animal dentistry.
<i>Maintenance routines</i> for instruments and equipment may include:	• calibration • cleaning • disassembly • drying • packing and oiling • reassembly • re-stocking • sharpening.
<i>Specific home-nursing</i> advice may include:	• advice on dispensed medications • dietary requirements • continued prophylaxis at home • gum and dental hygiene • postoperative expectations • use of bones and toys.

Unit Sector(s)

Veterinary nursing