



Australian Government

AHCLSK219 Carry out birthing duties

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 7.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assist animals and their newborn at birthing, including preparing for birthing, assisting with birthing process and providing post-birthing assistance.

The unit applies to individuals who carry out birthing duties under general supervision with limited autonomy or accountability.

All work is carried out to comply with workplace procedures, health and safety in the workplace requirements, animal welfare legislative, regulatory and codes of practice requirements, and sustainability and biosecurity practices.

In addition to legal responsibilities, all units of competency dealing with animals in the AHC Training Package have the requirements for animals to be handled humanely to minimise stress and discomfort.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Livestock (LSK)

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>
1. Prepare for birthing	1.1 Read animal records and confirm anticipated birthing date with supervisor

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.2 Check and monitor condition and health status of pregnant animal prior to birthing 1.3 Prepare and use equipment, resources and materials according to supervisor instructions and safe working practices 1.4 Provide shelter access for birthing females to ensure animal welfare needs are met 1.5 Identify workplace health and safety hazards and report to supervisor 1.6 Select, fit, use and maintain personal protective equipment (PPE) applicable to task 1.7 Check and report faulty or unsafe equipment, resources, materials or PPE to supervisor 1.8 Check for presence of predators and implement control measures where necessary and report to supervisor
2. Assist at the birthing process	2.1 Monitor environment and animals to assess whether birth is progressing normally 2.2 Handle animals calmly with minimal disruption to birthing process according to workplace animal welfare and hygiene practices 2.3 Identify animals experiencing birthing difficulties and intervene as appropriate 2.4 Seek supervisor or veterinary advice if birth complications cannot be resolved
3. Provide post-birthing assistance	3.1 Check and clear newborns airways where required 3.2 Clean mother and newborn where required 3.3 Monitor post-birthing health, suckling and bonding of female and newborn 3.4 Administer antibiotics or other medicine as directed 3.5 Clean and maintain birthing environment, facilities and equipment according to workplace procedures 3.6 Complete birth records according to workplace procedures 3.7 Report malfunctions, faults, wear or damage of facilities, equipment and resources to supervisor

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
Writing	Use clear language, accurate industry terminology and logical structure to complete birth records
Oral communication	- Use clear language to report malfunctions, faults wear or damage to facilities, equipment and resources - Participate in verbal exchanges to respond to questions and clarify information

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCLSK219 Carry out birthing duties	AHCLSK203 Carry out birthing duties	Minor changes to application Major changes to performance criteria Foundation skills added Assessment requirements updated	Not equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCLSK219 Carry out birthing duties

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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 carried out birthing duties on at least three separate occasions, and has:

- recognised signs of imminent birthing of animals
- monitored animal condition and recognised abnormal behaviour
- prepared environment, materials and resources to industry standards
- followed relevant workplace health and safety and environmental and biosecurity legislation, regulations and workplace procedures
- maintained a safe and secure environment
- provided due care and handled animals humanely according to workplace animal welfare and hygiene practices
- provided a non-threatening environment and access to appropriate feed and water
- implemented predator control measures
- monitored birthing and provided assistance if required or referred on if birthing difficulties require veterinary assistance
- carried out animal husbandry procedures associated with birthing
- recognised abnormalities in newborn animals
- reported and maintained animal birth records
- selected equipment and materials and checked for safe operation.

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:

- workplace requirements applicable to health and safety in the workplace for carrying out birthing duties, including appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- environment and biosecurity legislation and regulations and workplace practices relevant to carrying out birthing duties

- principles and practices of animal birthing duties, including:
 - relevant animal behaviour, basic health and nutritional requirements of animals and newborn
 - birthing environment requirements for animals
 - equipment and materials, their components and functions
 - birthing intervention and non-intervention strategies
 - effects of adverse weather conditions on birthing process and newborn animals
 - workplace policies with regard to treating animals, recording and reporting routines
 - relevant livestock gestation and appropriate birthing and husbandry procedures
 - problems associated with birthing and remedial treatment
 - use of antibiotics and other medicine after birthing, including dosage, delivery routes and contraindications
 - procedures for cleaning and maintaining treatment equipment and materials
 - predator behaviour and control measures
 - animal welfare legislation, codes of practice and procedures and hygiene practices relevant to carrying out birthing duties.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - work instructions and workplace procedures applicable to carrying out birthing duties
 - materials, equipment, and resources applicable to carrying out birthing duties for the animal species
 - pregnant livestock
 - PPE applicable to carrying out birthing duties
- specifications:
 - workplace requirements applicable to health and safety in the workplace for carrying out birthing duties
 - environment and biosecurity legislation and regulations and workplace practices applicable to carrying out birthing duties
 - industry standards, legislation and codes of practice and procedures for animal welfare applicable to carrying out birthing duties
 - hygiene practices applicable to carrying out birthing duties
- relationships:
 - supervisor
- timeframes:
 - according to job requirements.

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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