Modification history

| Release | Comments |
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| Release 1 | This version released with the ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

| ACMCAN308 | Release native animals to natural environment |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare and successfully release native wildlife into their natural environment.  This unit applies to wildlife animal keepers or carers who work in a captive animal facility, under the direction of a more experienced staff member.  No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication.  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. |
| Prerequisite units | Nil |
| Unit sector | Captive Animals (CAN) |

| Element | Performance criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Investigate options for release of native animals | 1.1 Research habitat of native animals for release, and identify and evaluate suitable release locations  1.2 Identify risks to released native animals and evaluate options to minimise risks  1.3 Develop release strategy and select and prepare site  1.4 Monitor release site in consultation with experienced personnel |
| 2. Prepare for animal release | 2.1 Assess animal’s readiness to be released  2.2 Evaluate and implement monitoring devices or tactics  2.3 Complete documentation |
| 3. Release and monitor native animals | 3.1 Determine release day according to animal needs  3.2 Transport animals safely and humanely and to the release site  3.3 Use release strategies according to animal’s requirements  3.4 Monitor released animals where possible to confirm a successful return to their natural environment  3.5 Update records |

| 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. | |
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| Skill | Description |
| Numeracy | Estimate, calculate and record routine measurements |
| Get the work done | Prioritise daily tasks and use available resources |

| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMCAN308 Release native animals to natural environment | ACMCAN308A Release native animals to natural environment | Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages | Equivalent unit |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: <https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103> |

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMCAN308 Release native animals to natural environment |
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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 released a minimum of three native animals into a natural environment, including (for each):  assessing the animal’s readiness to be released  identifying the risks to the animal about to be released  safely transporting animals and releasing at specified site  implementing monitoring devices or tactics  maintaining accurate records. | |

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| 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:  principles and practices of native animal release  anatomical structures and physiological features of native animals  animal monitoring devices and tactics  basic animal husbandry requirements and rehabilitation procedures for common native species  databases to establish status of species in the wild  indicators of animals' readiness for release:  being dehumanised  displaying appropriate species behaviour  displaying normal physical features, such as returning to waterproof state  feeding independently and eating at least 85 per cent natural diet that will be available in the proposed release site  moving freely  recognising own species  socially adapted to survive in their natural state  recognising natural food sources  used to exposure to natural elements  readiness will also depend on:  availability of a suitable release site  other habitat considerations  practicality of releasing animals into the area where they were originally found  timing of release and consideration of species migratory patterns  weather conditions   * risks of working with captive animals, including:   animal bites, envenomation, kicks, scratches and crush injuries  biological hazardous waste and sharps disposal  handling of chemicals and medicines  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   * typical steps for release, including:   veterinary examination to ensure animals are clinically free of diseases and parasite  notifying relevant government department of proposed release, as required  organising tagging, banding or other marking, as required, for monitoring purposes  soft or hard release  releasing as near as possible to original habitat  releasing in the appropriate social group, where applicable to species  selecting appropriate weather, season and time of day   * principles and objectives of animal rehabilitation and release programs, animal welfare and ethics * relevant facility policies and procedures, including WHS, animal welfare, hygiene standards and other industry guidelines * relevant legislation, including state or territory wildlife Acts and codes of practice * wildlife ecology, including population dynamics, habitat selection, competition, and predator-prey interactions. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions:   an environment that accurately reflects a real workplace setting   * resources, equipment and materials:   a range of rescued and rehabilitated native animals  equipment and resources appropriate to work undertaken in a captive animal facility   * specifications:   access to organisational policies and procedures  current WHS legislation and regulations and relevant state/territory animal welfare regulations   * relationships (internal and/or external):   interactions with team members.  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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