Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0. |

| ACMINF20X | Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to handle companion animals safely and follow workplace infection control procedures in a range of work environments where companion animals are cared for on a temporary basis.  The unit applies to individuals who are employed and/or volunteer in providing services that cater for companion animals such as shelters, catteries/kennels and day care facilities, and grooming/walking businesses. They work in known contexts dealing with routine tasks and a limited range of predicable problems.  No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Infection control (INF) |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Follow infection control guidelines | 1.1 Access and interpret the key principles and workplace requirements for infection control and biosecurity  1.2 Identify key personnel within the work environment relating to infection control matters  1.3 Identify common infection risks and diseases, including contagious and zoonotic diseases, relating to companion animals |
| 2. Maintain personal safety and hygiene when handling companion animals | 2.1 Identify the risks of personal injury, contracting a zoonosis or other health problems associated with working with companion animals, and how these can be minimised  2.2 Maintain personal hygiene when handling companion animals including washing and sanitising hands and covering cuts and abrasions according to workplace guidelines  2.3 Ensure personal vaccination/immunisation and boosters are obtained and up to date  2.4 Select and fit appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) according to workplace guidelines  2.5 Select and fit appropriate PPE if contact with animal body fluids or excrement cannot be avoided |
| 3. Handle companion animals safely | 3.1 Observe animal behaviour before approaching or handling to check for risks to safety of self, and other people or animals  3.2 Use appropriate techniques, equipment and PPE to safely handle and control the companion animal and to avoid being bitten or scratched  3.3 Handle animals calmly and safely according to workplace guidelines and animal welfare principles |
| 4. Monitor companion animals for signs or symptoms of disease | 4.1 Recognise signs and symptoms of common diseases affecting companion animals handled in the workplace  4.2 Report suspected cases of disease or illness to appropriate person  4.3 Separate animals according to zoning or protective barrier requirements to limit the spread of disease  4.4 Follow instructions or guidelines for controlling access to different areas of the workplace |
| 5. Maintain clean and hygienic animal environments | 5.1 Select and prepare appropriate cleaning products, disinfectants and cleaning equipment  5.2 Follow procedures to clean and disinfect animal environments regularly according to workplace guidelines  5.3 Clean or replace companion animal bedding and sort washable items for laundering or disposal  5.4 Ensure companion animal environments, feed and water are free of contaminants  5.5 Dispose of waste according to workplace infection control and environmental practices, and local government requirements |
| 6. Report infection control activity to supervisor | 6.1 Fill in workplace records relating to infection control according to guidelines  6.2 Report infection control incidents and signs of contagious disease according to workplace guidelines |

| 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 |
| Reading | * Interpret information about products such as disinfectants, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment * Locate key information in procedures and workplace forms |
| Oral communication | * Use active listening and questioning techniques to obtain and give clear information to others |
| Numeracy | * Measure and mix chemicals and disinfectants according to instructions * Calculate and convert decimal measurements and quantities |
| Navigate the world of work | * Recognise the importance of infection control and associated responsibilities of own role and work |
| Get the work done | * Assemble resources and sequence activities relating to companion animal infection control to achieve positive outcomes |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMINF20X Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines | Not applicable | New unit | No 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 ACMINF20X Handle animals safely and follow infection control guidelines |
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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:   * assessed risks and safely handled at least three different companion animals using correct techniques, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) * correctly recognised the signs and symptoms of at least five different diseases in at least two different companion animal species, using a combination of live companion animals and case study scenarios * demonstrated at least three different infection control activities while caring for at least four live companion animals * accurately filled in at least two workplace or sample documents related to infection control when handling/caring for companion animals. | |

| Knowledge Evidence |
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| 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:   * basic companion animal behaviour and body language depicting different emotions - distressed, aggressive, relaxed * basic principles of infection control and biosecurity, including: * prevent spread of disease before it occurs and limit contamination after it has occurred * personal hygiene, PPE and vaccination/immunisation * disinfecting and sanitising equipment * cleaning animal housing * limiting movement of animals and environmental contamination * reporting incidents and contagious diseases * key terminology related to infection control and basic meanings, including: * biosecurity * infectious * contagious * zoonosis * pathogen * how diseases can be transmitted and spread, including: * via pathogens * between animals * between animals and humans * between animals or humans and the environment * main risks in contracting a zoonosis from a companion animals * signs and symptoms of common diseases (including zoonoses) affecting companion animals, including: * canine influenza / feline influenza * canine parvovirus / feline panleukopenia * contagious respiratory disease (kennel cough) * toxoplasmosis * salmonellosis * lice, ticks, fleas * mange (parasitic/mite disease) also known as scabies in humans * ringworm, roundworm, hookworm * types of cleaning materials and disinfectants and their application and contact requirements * procedures for reporting suspected infections or disease, including: * contacting veterinarian (companion animal) or doctor (humans) * workplace reporting requirements |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in a companion animal care workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * live companion animals * cleaning equipment and materials * workplace appropriate items of personal protective equipment * photographs/scenarios of animals with signs and symptoms of different companion animal diseases * specifications: * use of specific organisational infection control guidelines and forms.   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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