Modification history

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

| ACMINF30X | Implement infection control in the handling and care of native wildlife |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to handle and house sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife safely and follow infection control guidelines to minimise the spread of diseases between wildlife, humans and the environment.  The unit applies to individuals who work or volunteer in a range of wildlife rescue, care and rehabilitation contexts where animals are housed and cared for on a temporary basis. They work under broad direction, take responsibility for their own work, solve problems and use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.  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. Identify requirements for caring for sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife | 1.1 Identify state/territory regulatory requirements for wildlife rehabilitation, shelter and/or foster care  1.2 Source and interpret the key principles and organisational requirements for infection control for working with wildlife  1.3 Identify roles of key personnel within the work environment relating to infection control and biosecurity  1.4 Identify common diseases relating to specific species of native animals in own region or environment  1.5 Identify zoonotic diseases relevant to wildlife handled in the work environment |
| 2. Protect personal safety and hygiene when handling native wildlife | 2.1 Recognise the risks of personal injury, contracting a zoonosis or other health problems, associated with working with wildlife and how these can be minimised  2.2 Maintain personal hygiene when handling animals including washing and sanitising hands and covering cuts and abrasions according to organisational infection control guidelines  2.3 Ensure personal vaccination/immunisation and boosters are obtained and are up to date  2.4 Comply with clothing requirements and correctly fit and wear PPE specified in organisational guidelines  2.5 Avoid contact with bodily fluids and excrement and/or wear appropriate PPE for protection |
| 3. Safely capture and handle native wildlife | 3.1 Observe native wildlife behaviour before approaching or handling to assess risks to safety of self, or other people or animals  3.2 Use appropriate techniques, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) to capture and handle wildlife to ensure minimum stress and avoid injuries to handlers  3.3 Recognise dangerous species and develop species-specific, safe capture and handling techniques or contact a specialist handler or organisation for assistance  3.4 Secure native wildlife in appropriate enclosure, container and/or vehicle checking that they are not able to escape or break free while being transported |
| 4. Assess condition and house captured wildlife | 4.2 Recognise signs of common diseases and/or assess the condition of injuries affecting the captured wildlife  4.2 Carry out basic first aid or take captured wildlife to a veterinarian depending on condition  4.3 Separate animals according to zoning or protective barrier requirements to limit containment of potential disease risks  4.4 Ensure enclosures and bedding minimise potential contamination of the individual and other wildlife on the premise  4.4 Assess rehabilitation and plan release requirements for individual wildlife according to organisational and regulatory requirements |
| 5. Care for wildlife | 5.1 Check quality of feed and water, locate away from potential sources of contamination and store in designated areas  5.2 Clean, disinfect and/or sterilise feeding bottles and containers to prevent contamination and minimise the spread of disease  5.3 Control access to different areas of the work environment and limit human contact according to organisational guidelines  5.4 Monitor the health and condition of the wildlife responding to individual needs |
| 6. Maintain clean and hygienic wildlife captive environments | 6.1 Select and prepare appropriate cleaning products, disinfectants and cleaning equipment for activity  6.2 Clean and disinfect animal captive environments regularly according to organisational guidelines  6.3 Change wildlife bedding and/or sort washable items for laundering or disposal  6.4 Ensure enclosures, feed and water are free of contaminants, rodents and vermin  6.5 Dispose of waste, including deceased wildlife, according to organisational infection control and environmental practices, and local government requirements |
| 7. Maintain records and report infection control and biosecurity activity | 7.1 Fill in organisational records or documentation relating to infection control according to guidelines  7.2 Report infection control incidents and signs of contagious disease according to regulatory and organisational requirements |

| 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 and precise information to others |
| Numeracy | * Measure and mix chemicals and disinfectants according to instructions * Distinguish between whole numbers, fractions and decimals and calculate conversions between units |
| Navigate the world of work | * Recognise the importance of infection control and associated responsibilities of own role and work |
| Interact with others | * Work collaboratively with wildlife care organisations or foster carers to achieve joint outcomes |
| Get the work done | * Plan and assemble resources and sequence activities relating to wildlife care to achieve positive outcomes |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMINF30X Handle native wildlife safely and follow infection control procedures | 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 ACMINF30X Implement infection control in the handling and care of native wildlife |
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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:   * safely captured and handled at least three different native wildlife animals using correct techniques, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) * correctly recognised the signs and symptoms of at least five different diseases in real wildlife or case study scenarios * assessed the risks and followed infection control guidelines when caring for at least three different native wildlife animals including: * one adult animal with a common disease * one animal requiring basic first aid * one young orphan * completed written records related to handling/caring for an injured, orphaned or diseased animal following organisational requirements. | |

| 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:   * state/territory wildlife and animal welfare regulatory requirements, including: * authorisation to provide rehabilitation shelters and/or foster care * not keeping wildlife as pets and relevant penalties * rules about displaying animals / visitors to shelters * rehabilitation and release requirements * categories of species including, threatened, unusual and pest species * recording and reporting requirements * basic principles of infection control and biosecurity for wildlife, including: * personal hygiene, vaccinations/immunisation and PPE * ways of spreading infections and diseases including people, animals, environment and equipment * cleaning wildlife enclosures and bedding * cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising equipment * limiting movement of wildlife and contact with people * appropriate levels of human contact * limiting environmental contamination including pests, vermin and noxious plants * reporting incidents and contagious diseases * key terminology related to infection control and basic meanings, including: * biosecurity * contagious * zoonosis * pathogen * risks in catching, handling and caring for native wildlife, including: * stressed, frightened behaviour from wildlife * injuries, including bites, scratches, kicks * disease transmission - zoonotic diseases * personal health and wellbeing including managing compassion fatigue * techniques and equipment for capturing wildlife * main wildlife species related to own work or environment * signs and symptoms of common injuries and diseases (including zoonoses) affecting native wildlife, including: * mange (scabies in humans) - parasitic/mite disease * lice, ticks, fleas * Q fever * ringworm * bat lyssavirus (ABLV) disease * hendra virus * parvovirus * Bairnsdale ulcer (possums) * psittacine circoviral disease (beak and feather disease) * stress myopathy and traumatic injuries- motor vehicles, shootings * how diseases can be transmitted and spread, including: * via pathogens * between animals * between animals and humans * between animals or humans and the environment * basic types of pathogens, including: * viruses * bacteria * fungi * protozoa * internal parasites (worms) * external parasites ((lice and mites) * types of cleaning/sterilisation materials and disinfectants and their application and contact requirements * procedures for reporting suspected infections or disease, including: * contacting veterinarian (wildlife) or doctor (humans) * organisation supervisor * state/territory regulations 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 an wildlife care shelter workplace or an environment that accurately represents these conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * a range of live native wildlife * disinfectants and cleaning equipment and materials * use of workplace appropriate items of personal protective equipment * wildlife enclosures or containers * specifications: * use of specific workplace 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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