Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 2 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0. |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

| ACMATE502 | Manage and maintain the health of research animals |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to manage the health of animals in a research environment.  It applies to individuals who work as part of a team with other staff, researchers and veterinarians to manage the health of research animals.  All work practices must be undertaken in accordance with current Australian Codes and the organisation's standard operating procedures. It requires the ability to liaise with and report to the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) according to organisational requirements.  In addition to complying with legal and ethical responsibilities, individuals are required to minimise stress and discomfort for animals through gentle and calm handling and appropriate care.  No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Animal Technology (ATE) |

| 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. Monitor the health status of laboratory animals | 1.1 Develop standard operating procedures to monitor the health of laboratory animals for signs of disease  1.2 Follow the organisation's standard operating procedures, including WHS requirements, when monitoring the health of laboratory animals |
| 2. Investigate and recognise disease processes in research animals | 2.1 Develop standard operating procedures to investigate and recognise diseases in laboratory animals  2.2 Follow the organisation's standard operating procedures to investigate and recognise diseases in laboratory animals  2.3 Recognise and report signs of ill health, sickness behaviours and pain to appropriate staff  2.4 Recognise lesions clinically and during post-mortem examinations, and record against health status of animals  2.5 Recognise post-mortem changes due to deterioration in tissues and organs |
| 3. Prevent, treat, and control disease in laboratory animals | 3.1 Contribute to the development of standard operating procedures to prevent, treat and control disease in laboratory animals  3.2 Follow the organisation's standard operating procedures when preventing, treating and controlling a range of diseases in laboratory animals  3.3 Contribute to development and implementation strategies to investigate, prevent, treat, control and monitor disease |
| 4. Evaluate effects | 4.1 Evaluate and document effects of disease processes in laboratory animals on the research program  4.2 Evaluate and document effects on laboratory animals of experimental techniques |

| 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 |
| Writing | * Prepare written reports and workplace documentation that communicate complex information clearly and effectively about the effects of disease processes in laboratory animals and the impacts on laboratory animals of experimental techniques |
| Numeracy | * Recognise safety parameters and interpret numerical information regarding quantities of feed, water, food supplements and medication * Calculate changes to dosages due to animal health and disease issues |
| Interact with others | * Work independently and as part of a team to monitor animal health, sickness behaviours and pain |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMATE502 Manage and maintain the health of research animals (Release 2) | ACMATE502 Manage and maintain the health of research animals (Release 1) | Minor changes to performance criteria and assessment requirements for clarity | 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 ACMATE502 Manage and maintain the health of research animals |
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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:   * assisted in the investigation of disease processes and acted to prevent, treat, control and monitor disease on at least one occasion, * contributed to the development of two standard operating procedures to manage and maintain the health of research animals * evaluated and documented the impact of at least one disease process in a research program. | |

| 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:   * principles and practices in managing health of research animals * anatomical and physiological structures and functions related to the health and wellbeing of commonly held animals * ante-mortem and post-mortem changes in animals * biohazards in the workplace of significance to animals and humans * industry terminology used to describe administration of substances and sampling techniques and other animal technology workplace practices * industry terminology used to identify animals, describe their behaviour and diseases * methodology and format of the organisation's standard operating procedures * microbiology of common diseases in laboratory animals * nutritional and behavioural disorders found in commonly held species * organisational policies and safe work procedures, including WHS and emergency procedures * parameters of normal and abnormal behaviour in animals, including signs of a healthy animal, and signs of an animal in pain or distress in commonly held species * protocols, legal and ethical considerations in establishing animal care procedures and policies and gaining ethics committee approval * current, relevant codes of practice, including the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes * relevant state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science, WHS, and animal welfare and research * key requirements of relevant state or territory legislation covering the use of therapeutic and controlled substances * safe animal handling techniques, including approved handling methods during the administration of substances and collection of samples * sources of relevant scientific and technical literature * tissue and fluid sample types and methods * types of disease vectors * types of infectious and non-infectious diseases relevant to commonly held research animals * causes of infectious diseases and non-infectious diseases in commonly held research animals * workplace hygiene standards, including commonly used disinfectants, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * personal protective equipment – used when working with research animals * animals and animal housing used in research * specifications: * organisational policies and procedures, legislation, regulations, industry standards and codes of practice relevant to work undertaken in animal research.   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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