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. |

| ACMATE503 | Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal |
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| Application | This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct a post-mortem examination of a research animal for scientific purposes.  This unit applies to individuals who are required to work with and care for animals used within scientific establishments for scientific purposes and teaching. 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 according to organisational requirements.  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. Prepare to conduct the post-mortem examination | 1.1 Identify, select and prepare appropriate site for the post-mortem  1.2 Identify containment issues and health and safety risks and take or recommend appropriate action to protect self and others  1.3 Obtain and prepare correct clothing, equipment and resources to be used in the post-mortem examination  1.4 Use appropriate manual lifting techniques to move the animal to be examined to the post-mortem area  1.5 Confirm death of the animal by checking for the absence of any vital signs  1.6 Confirm identity and obtain and collate all relevant preliminary information about the animal to be examined  1.7 Identify abnormal characteristics that may indicate the presence of notifiable and potentially hazardous conditions or diseases and take or recommend appropriate action  1.8 Identify industry expert assistance and access as appropriate |
| 2. Carry out the post-mortem examination | 2.1 Carry out external assessment of the animal and record outward signs of abnormalities or injury  2.2 Dissect animal using appropriate techniques and equipment to avoid cutting into organs or stomach cavity  2.3 Examine nominated organs, tissues and structures  2.4 Take and prepare samples of organs, other tissues and fluid samples where appropriate without causing damage to tissues |
| 3. Complete the post-mortem examination | 3.1 Dispose of carcass using appropriate equipment according to animal research practices and waste disposal legislation and regulations  3.2 Correctly label and package samples for analysis according to organisational procedures  3.3 Collate records of observations and information about the animal examined for relevant persons to analyse and diagnose  3.4 Clean and disinfect post-mortem area and equipment  3.5 Complete personal biosecurity clean-up |

| 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 | * Read and interpret relevant codes of practice and organisational procedures |
| Get the work done | * Perform a post-mortem examination to ensure effectiveness in meeting timelines and work schedules |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMATE503 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal (Release 2) | ACMATE503 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal (Release 1) | Minor changes to performance criteria and knowledge evidence for clarity  Revised performance evidence to reduce duplication with performance criteria | 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 ACMATE503 Carry out post-mortem examination of a research animal |
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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:   * prepared for and carried out at least one post-mortem examination of two different species of research animal * collated records and data and prepared a brief or report of normal and abnormal findings for relevant persons for each post-mortem examination. | |

| 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 for carrying out post-mortem examination of research animals * animal biology, anatomy and physiology of the range of species in the organisation's research program, including the position, features and appearance of major organs in healthy animals of the species being examined * anatomical and physiological terminology, and glossary of terms and nomenclature related to the species being examined * animal care and ethics protocols related to the conduct of post-mortems * biosecurity issues (for animals and humans) relating to the collection of samples from animals * classification system used by Animal Ethics Committees to categorise animal care and treatment, including health status, containment level, relevant to post-mortem examination * industry terminology used to describe and document findings in post-mortem * methods and equipment used to collect and prepare tissue and fluid samples for transport to testing area * organisational policies and safe work procedures, including WHS and emergency procedures * relevant, current codes of practice, including the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes * key requirements of relevant state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science, health and safety, animal welfare, waste disposal and animal research practices * requirements for the correct preparation, labelling and packaging of biological and potentially hazardous samples * sequence of actions in conducting a post-mortem * specific post-mortem clean-up techniques, equipment and materials * workplace hygiene standards, disinfectants and cleaning agents, techniques and 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: * equipment and resources used when conducting a post-mortem examination, including personal protective equipment * animals for post-mortem examination * specifications: * organisational policies and procedures, legislation, regulations, 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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