Modification history

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

| ACMATE4X2 | Conduct euthanasia or humane killing of research animals |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct the euthanasing of research animals.  The unit applies to individuals who are employed as assistant level animal technicians working with and caring for animals used within an animal technology biomedical research or production environment for scientific purposes and teaching purposes where it may be necessary to euthanase individual or groups of animals for a range of reasons approved by the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). Individuals work under the supervision of a senior or more experienced staff member and must ensure animals are handled gently and calmly, and must exhibit appropriate care for animals so that stress and discomfort is minimised.  Animal technicians conducting euthanasia operate under and must comply with legislative requirements and the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, as well as protocols, policies and procedures set down by the organisation's AEC.  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 euthanasia of research animal | 1.1 Identify, justify and report need for euthanasia  1.2 Ensure approved method selected for euthanasia is appropriate for species and consistent with the research program approvals and relevant codes and legislation  1.3 Prepare euthanasia equipment and materials  1.4 Select location for the euthanasia  1.5 Identify associated euthanasia hazards according to health and safety procedures and guidelines |
| 2. Carry out the euthanasia of animals | 2.1 Use personal protective and safety equipment according to health and safety policies and statutory requirements  2.2 Handle and transport equipment according to statutory requirements and industry practices`  2.3 Assist with the handling and restraint of animals, where required, to minimise pain, distress and risk of injury to the animals or personnel according to animal welfare, ethical and legal requirements  2.4 Apply approved euthanasia method according to the requirements of the task and as instructed |
| 3. Complete the euthanasia of animals | 3.1 Confirm animal deaths according to approved indicators of death  3.2 Handle and move carcasses that are required for research or post-mortem examination according to organisational experimental and health and safety requirements  3.3 Store or dispose of samples, waste and animal carcasses according to health and safety organisational procedures and legislative requirements  3.4 Decontaminate or clean, and store or dispose of, equipment and materials  3.5 Update records relating to euthanased animals according to workplace policies and procedures |

| 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 | * Calculate solutions, dilutions, body weights and dose rates |
| Oral communication | * Listen carefully to instructions from supervisor and ask clarifying questions as required |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMATE4X2 Conduct euthanasia of research animals | ACMATE305 Conduct euthanasia of research animals | Unit recoded to better reflect level of activity and responsibility. Minor changes to performance criteria and knowledge evidence for clarity. PC1.6 removed  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 ACMATE4X2 Conduct euthanasia 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:   * carried out euthanasia of at least one live research animal and demonstrated three simulations using a humane, rapid and appropriate manner for the approved endpoint * prepared and maintained required materials and equipment * stored and/or disposed of animal carcasses and biological waste according to organisational procedures and legislative requirements * decontaminated, cleaned and stored equipment and materials or disposed of them according to organisational procedures. | |

| 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 of research animal euthanasia * definition of humane endpoint, euthanasia and humane killing * anatomical terminology, structures and physiological features of animals in research facilities * anatomy and physiology of animals commonly held in the facility, especially the neck and head, and respiration and heart rates * physical conditions, vital signs of animals as well as signs of pain and distress in commonly held species * indicators of death in animals as approved by the veterinarian, animal welfare officer or organisational policy * biohazards in the workplace of significance to animals and humans * equipment and drugs commonly used for euthanasia * firearm legislation, regulations and techniques related to the humane destruction of animals if required * approved species-specific methods of euthanasia and routes of administration or techniques used * strategies to minimise mental health and wellbeing issues associated with animal death and techniques used for euthanasia * organisational policies and safe work procedures, including accident requirements * animal welfare and ethics related to euthanasia of animals used for scientific research * protocols, legal and ethical considerations in the euthanasing of animals * requirements of legislation, regulations, standards and codes of practice relevant to work undertaken in an animal technology environment in relation to the euthanasia of research animals * safe animal handling techniques and procedures. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in an animal technology workplace setting * resources, equipment and materials: * research animals * species appropriate equipment and materials needed for euthanasia or humane killing.   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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