

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0.

ACMNEW4X1	Conduct animal behavioural suitability assessments
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess animal behaviour for suitability for a range of purposes, which may include adoption/rehoming or for specific purposes or activities. It typically applies dogs and cats but may be applied to other species.</p> <p>This unit applies to individuals who work with animals and conduct behavioural assessments using tools and criteria relevant to the workplace. They analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of skilled activities and demonstrate in depth knowledge in a specific technical area. They develop and communicate solutions for a range of commonly encountered problems.</p> <p>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</p> <p>No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Companion Animal Services (CAS)

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare for animal behavioural suitability assessment	1.1 Collate relevant information about animal to be assessed and organise assessment arrangements 1.2 Review available background information and identify factors that may impact on suitability of animal for required purpose or activity 1.3 Check assessment area to identify hazards and minimise risks to people and welfare of animals 1.4 Organise equipment and support personnel needed to conduct the assessment
2. Conduct animal behavioural suitability assessment	2.1 Record identification and relevant information, including condition and health status, of animal according to workplace requirements 2.2 Prepare animal for assessment according to workplace procedures 2.3 Observe animal behaviour in a range of contexts, applying knowledge of context-appropriate and unwanted species and/or breed-specific behaviour 2.4 Record the animal's behaviour and note key information using workplace criteria, tools and formats
3. Review assessment outcomes for animal	3.1 Collate all information about individual animal 3.2 Review notes and assessment outcomes to identify behaviours likely to affect the suitability of the animal for the intended purpose or activity 3.3 Gather further information to confirm or clarify the assessment outcome, or refer to other suitable personnel according to workplace procedures

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
4. Finalise animal behavioural suitability assessment outcome	4.1 Make a judgement on the animal's suitability for intended purpose or activity based on information gathered using workplace tools, criteria and procedures and the welfare of the animal 4.2 Implement workplace procedures for animals according to outcome of assessment for intended purpose or activity 4.3 Determine follow up actions needed for individual animals according to workplace procedures 4.5 Complete all documentation accurately and file according to workplace procedures

Foundation Skills	
<i>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.</i>	
Skill	Description
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret workplace procedures, criteria and tools for conducting animal behavioural suitability assessments
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use industry terminology accurately to complete records for internal and external purposes
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use open-ended questioning and active listening in discussions with others

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMNEW4X1 Conduct animal behavioural suitability assessments	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

Links
Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103

TITLE	Assessment requirements for ACMNEW4X1 Conduct animal behavioural suitability assessments
Performance Evidence	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducted a behavioural assessment, using a workplace behavioural assessment tool, for four different animals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two that require minimal further action or behaviour management • two that require structured programs on a specific area identified from assessment outcome • handled or interacted with each animal in a safe and humane manner using appropriate equipment • completed all required workplace documentation for each assessment conducted. 	
Knowledge Evidence	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • types of and reasons for conducting behavioural suitability assessments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rehoming or adoption • foster care • activity specific or work roles • safety working with animals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hazard identification • risk assessments – environmental and behaviour • safe assessment environment for individual and/or groups of animals • species-specific resources – muzzles, collars and/or leads • personal protective equipment • strategies for psychological health and safety • general signs of animal condition and health status • identification of animals, including physical features, microchipping and/or relevant documentation • species-specific behavioural characteristics of animals in workplace, including how to recognise body language and emotional states • behaviours that may impact negatively on animal suitability for intended purpose or activity, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fearful or aggressive responses to people and/or other animals • context-appropriate vs maladaptive behaviour • fear of specific stimuli • reactivity • signs of stress • high-risk behaviours • key features of workplace criteria and tools for behavioural suitability assessments • workplace procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting assessments, including for individual and/or groups of animals, single and/or multi-stage processes and types of information to be gathered • interacting with or handling species to be assessed • key principles of animal welfare • overview of current state and local government regulations or requirements relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific species or breeds • registration, microchipping and containment • operation of animal shelters • requirements of relevant record keeping system. 	
Assessment Conditions	
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions 	

Assessment Conditions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">resources, equipment and materials:<ul style="list-style-type: none">live animals to be assessed specified in the performance evidenceequipment for conducting the animal behaviour assessmentsspecifications:<ul style="list-style-type: none">workplace tool/format for conducting the animal behaviour assessments <p>Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.</p>	
Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103

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