Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 2 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0. |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

| ACMSPE310 | Provide general care of mammals |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify placental mammals and their behavioural and physical needs and provide daily care requirements.  This unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry where it may be necessary to care for placental mammals. This may include animal shelters or rehabilitation organisations, pet shops, zoos and animal technology facilities or similar workplaces. In some cases, animals may have been rescued from the wild, and successful rehabilitation is required to restore animal health and wellbeing before releasing back to their natural environment.  The unit applies to individuals who work under broad supervision and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable problems.  All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.  No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Species Specific (SPE) |

| 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 mammals | 1.1 Define the habitat, activity cycle and general features of placental mammals commonly housed in the facility  1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology  1.3 Classify placental mammals according to taxonomy  1.4 Define, interpret and document colours, markings and other identifying features |
| 2. Identify and evaluate behavioural and housing needs | 2.1 Identify indicators of animal comfort and normal behaviour  2.2 Recognise signs of distressed mammals and report to supervisor  2.3 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities  2.4 Evaluate current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of animals kept and legislation requirements  2.5 Implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific species |
| 3. Catch, handle and restrain mammals | 3.1 Identify workplace health and safety hazards associated with handling and restraining mammals, and implement methods to minimise risks  3.2 Select and use appropriate equipment to handle and restrain mammals  3.3 Approach, catch and restrain mammals safely, using approved animal welfare management procedures and minimising risks to animal and others |
| 4. Assist with health care needs | 4.1 Identify signs of good health in mammals  4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor  4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures and implement in accordance with level of job responsibility |
| 5. Feed mammals | 5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to mammal-specific feeding routines and diets  5.2 Identify preferred feed sources and assess samples for quality and suitability  5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control options  5.4 Prepare food in accordance with dietary needs  5.5 Distribute food |
| 6. Maintain records | 6.1 Complete feed and treatment records noting food consumption, health and care activities  6.2 Report abnormalities to supervisor  6.3 Complete documentation relevant to licenses and transport, where required |

| 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 key information and quantities specified on product labels |
| Numeracy | * Measure quantities of food and/or health treatments accurately |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMSPE310 Provide general care of mammals | ACMSPE310 Provide basic care of mammals | Minor changes to clarify content  Assessment requirements updated | Equivalent unit |

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| 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 ACMSPE310 Provide general care of mammals |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has:   * identified the specific characteristics and needs of different placental mammals selected from three of the following groups: * carnivores * ungulates * primates * marine mammals * common, small exotic mammals in exhibited populations * provided general care for a minimum of two different placental mammals from two different species, including (for each): * demonstrated appropriate techniques for safe interaction, restraint and/or handling * prepared and provided food * assisted with health care needs * maintained feed and treatment records for one mammal. | |

| 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:   * anatomical structures and physiological features used to identify and classify placental mammals * general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for mammals * housing, social and activity needs of mammals and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing * indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in mammals * natural mammal behaviour - species specific * characteristics that vary according to: * breeding season * species, breed, age and sex of the animals * time of day or night * behaviour characteristics associated with different species: * activity levels at certain times of day or night * feeding and foraging * social interaction * feeding behaviours * defensive and aggressive behaviour: * dominance gestures * submissive gestures * enrichment needs of mammals, including: * food or food-related enrichment * physical enrichment items * nest building or bedding material * social enrichment * potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses and need for personal protective equipment * safe mammal handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures * the principles of animal welfare and basic overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks/models, including Five Domains * types and impacts of food in mammal diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species * indicators of food quality, including nutritional value, freshness/shelf life, free from spoilage/pests * types of information that is reported and recorded in animal care workplaces * overview of Commonwealth and state/territory legislation and codes of practice related to captured wildlife, biosecurity (quarantine), health and safety, and animal welfare. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * a range of placental mammals as specified in the performance evidence * equipment and resources typically available in an animal care environment * specifications: * access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant codes of practice * relationships: * interactions with supervisor.   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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