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. |

| ACMSPE3X1 | Provide general care of fish |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify fish 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 marine and/or freshwater fish. This may include aquariums, pet stores, zoos, animal technology facilities, catchers and distributors or similar workplaces. This 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 fish | 1.1 Define the habitat, activity cycle and general features of fish commonly housed in facility  1.2 Identify external features using industry terminology  1.3 Classify marine and freshwater fish 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 Monitor water quality and make adjustments as required to maintain optimum water quality  2.2 Identify indicators of normal behaviour  2.3 Recognise signs of distressed fish and report to supervisor  2.4 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities  2.5 Evaluate current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of animals kept and legislation requirements  2.6 Implement behavioural enrichment activities for fish species |
| 3. Catch, handle and restrain fish | 3.1 Identify workplace health and safety risks associated with handling and restraining marine fish and implement methods to minimise risks  3.2 Catch and restrain fish in a way that minimises risks, using appropriate equipment and approved humane handling techniques |
| 4. Assist with health care needs | 4.1 Identify signs of good health in fish  4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor  4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures and implement according to supervisor instructions |
| 5. Feed fish | 5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to species-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 according to dietary needs  5.5 Distribute food according to schedule/feeding plan  5.6 Culture animal and plant species commonly used to feed fish |
| 6. Maintain records | 6.1 Complete feed and treatment records noting food consumption, health and care activities  6.2 Record abnormalities and advise supervisor  6.3 Complete documentation relevant to licences 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 |
| ACMSPE3X1 Provide general care of fish | ACMSPE306 Provide basic care of marine fish | Two units merged  Minor changes to make content generic to fish  Assessment requirements revised to address marine and freshwater fish | Equivalent unit |
| ACMSPE307 Provide basic care of freshwater fish | 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 ACMSPE3X1 Provide general care of fish |
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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 marine and freshwater fish * provided general care for two fish, either: * two different species of marine fish, * two different species of freshwater fish, or * one marine fish and one freshwater fish.   In doing the above, the individual must have:   * demonstrated appropriate safe handling techniques * prepared and provided food * assisted with housing care needs * maintained feed and treatment records for each fish. | |

| 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 commonly available marine and/or freshwater fish * general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for fish, including water and tank management * housing and environmental factors related to fish wellbeing * indicators of poor water quality, including: * colour * odour * unsuitable water chemistry parameters * indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in fish * signs of distressed fish, including: * any change in normal behaviour, including swimming patterns * discolouration * erratic swimming patterns * fins clamped against body * floating * hiding * immobility * presence of external disease organisms * subdued or aggressive behaviour * enrichment activities * potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing, including zoonoses * safe fish handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures * the principles of animal welfare and basic overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks/models, including the Five Domains * types and impacts of food in fish diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species * indicators of food quality, including nutritional value, veterinary approved diets, freshness/shelf life, free from spoilage/pests * types of information reported and recorded in fish care workplaces * overview of Commonwealth and state/territory legislation and codes of practice related to fish, biosecurity, health and safety, and animal welfare. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately reflects a real workplace * resources, equipment and materials: * live fish (marine and/or freshwater) as stipulated in the performance evidence * equipment and resources typically available in a fish 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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