Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 6.0 |

| ACMADT4X1 | Assess prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess prospective handlers' suitability for an assistance dog.  The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for own work including limited responsibility for the work of others. They use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources and complete activities that require empathy and behavioural analysis of prospective handlers and dogs.  All work must be carried out to comply with Commonwealth, state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations.  No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Assistance Dog Training |

| 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. Determine the prospective handler's assistance needs | 1.1 Review referral and other information to gain an indication of the prospective handler's personal care support requirements  1.2 Discuss the purpose of care needs assessment with the parties involved including the prospective handler and/or the carer and/or the family, referencing the role assistance dogs can play  1.3 Identify the prospective handler's household situation, including other pets, other household members and any allergies that may be impacted  1.4 Gather information according to workplace policy and procedures |
| 2. Determine if an assistance dog would improve the prospective handler's personal welfare | 2.1 Conduct environmental risk assessment for functions associated with the prospective handler's care needs  2.2 Conduct risk assessment specific to the prospective handler's circumstances  2.3 Work with the prospective handler to assess if an assistance dog would improve their personal welfare  2.4 Explain the process of attaining an assistance dog and manage the prospective handler's expectations |
| 3. Determine the prospective handler's ability to care for an assistance dog | 3.1 Discuss an assistance dog's needs with the prospective handler  3.2 Determine the prospective handler's ability to meet the assistance dog's nutritional and housing needs and enrich the dog's physical, emotional, mental health and lifestyle needs  3.3 Determine if the prospective handler can satisfy animal welfare regulatory/legislative requirements  3.4 Determine if the prospective handler is motivated for a long term reciprocal relationship with a dog beyond the assistive tasks it can provide  3.5 Assess possible distractions and/or challenges to the dog's needs and in relation to the dog providing the required in home and/or public access assistance |
| 4. Make assessment and complete documentation | 4.1 Use information gathered to determine the prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog  4.2 Discuss findings with the prospective handler  4.3 Complete prospective handler suitability assessment documentation for an assistance dog according to personal requirements |

| 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 | * Gather and interpret medical and personal care requirements from approved sources to identify relevant and key information |
| Writing | * Address all criteria matching assistance dogs with prospective handler incorporating appropriate vocabulary, grammatical structure and conventions appropriate to text and audience |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMADT4X1  Assess prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog |  |  | Newly created |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72> |

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMADT4X1 Assess prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog |
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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:   * assessed and documented four prospective handlers' with at least two different personal care support requirements, including one declining prospective handler with a view to determining an assistance dog's suitability in meeting prospective handlers' needs and prospective handlers' ability to care for and provide a good lifestyle for the dog. | |

| 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:   * human disability or disorder that may require the employment of an assistance dog, including: * physical * sensory * mental health * neurological, including neurodegenerative * developmental * factors that indicate that prospective handler are able to care for an assistance dog, Including: * being able to participate in the dog's training process * being able to independently coach and care for an assistance dog * having a stable home with access to suitable rest * ensuring prospective handler's carers, if relevant can also care for the dog's welfare and lifestyle * financial capability to provide the dog's basic needs, in particular food and veterinary, including desexing and preventatives * understanding the principle of consent testing and the dog's readiness to work * being able to ensure the dog's physical, social, emotional and mental wellbeing * being motivated for a long term reciprocal relationship with a dog during its lifetime beyond the assistive tasks that it can provide * previous animal experience * satisfying minimum standards around police check, alcohol issues, history of violence and fence height * legislation/regulations, including the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and as it relates to the assistance dog's public access * types of assistance that an assistance dog can provide * animal welfare practices as conceptualised in the five domains: * nutrition * environment * health * behaviour * mental state * workplace care assessment documentation, including record-keeping requirements. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * relevant dog training and animal welfare regulations * specifications: * workplace policies and procedures * relationships: * potential prospective handlers * assistance dogs.   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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