Modification history

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

| ACMADT4X5 | Train dogs using operant and classical conditioning techniques |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to train dogs using operant and classical conditioning techniques. It includes determining if a dog is suitable to become an assistance dog.  This unit applies to individuals who conduct individual or group classes to train dogs in desirable behaviours for domestic and public access environments. These individuals analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of skilled activities to develop and communicate solutions for a range of dog behavioural goals.  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. Interpret dog behaviour and identify optimal conditions for dog training | 1.1 Identify the key aspects of dogs' behaviour by observing their posture, facial expression, body language, stress signals and energy levels  1.2 Interpret signs that indicate fear, anxiety and arousal levels  1.3 Identify optimal conditions for dog behavioural training |
| 2. Prepare to train dogs | 2.1 Select, check, and ensure the handler uses appropriate equipment for the dog and themselves  2.2 Identify and follow appropriate biosecurity requirements, legislation, regulations, work health and safety (WHS) and animal welfare codes of practice  2.3 Identify suitable dog behaviour training techniques, focusing on positive rewards-based reinforcement that is force-free and fear-free, while incorporating negative punishment and the underpinning theoretical principles of dog training |
| 3. Implement dog training using operant and classical conditioning techniques | 3.1 Train dogs using voice and/or hand signals for tasks using operant and classical conditioning techniques and according to animal welfare codes of practice  3.2 Use suitable methodologies and practices  3.3 Introduce dogs to a public access environment in a confined area  3.4 Train dogs to handle larger numbers in more open areas  3.5 Train dogs on basic to specialist skills  3.6 Record training processes and dogs' progress |
| 4. Assess a dog's suitability to be an assistance dog | 4.1 Observe the dog's ability to perform tasks that would benefit a handler with a specific disability  4.2 Assess existing and potential hazards associated with assistance dog activity and determine if a dog would be receptive to training that adjusts their behaviour to mitigate hazards  4.3 Assess the dog's ability to complete the public access test |
| 5. Discuss maintenance of health and welfare of dogs | 5.1 Discuss dogs' lifestyle/lifelong needs regarding their housing and nutrition with owners  5.2 Discuss the monitoring and maintenance of dogs' health, condition and physical, emotional, mental health needs with owners |

| 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 | * Source information and interpret dog operant and classical conditioning techniques from approved sources |
| Writing | * Complete records and documents relevant to dog training using 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 |
| ACMADT4X5  Train dogs using operant and classical conditioning techniques |  |  | 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 ACMADT4X5 Train dogs using operant and classical conditioning techniques |
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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:   * used operant and classical dog conditioning techniques to train a group of four dogs on two different occasions in suitable methodologies and response to human verbal and visual cues * determined if one dog is suitable to become an assistance dog * recorded dog training processes and progress in all of these instances. | |

| 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:   * legislation, codes of practice, regulations and welfare requirements that apply to dog welfare * operant and classical dog conditioning techniques, including: * extinction options (used only after reading a dog's emotions to monitor if a dog is ready considering fear and anxiety levels) * shaping behaviours * fading techniques * stretching the ration * positive reinforcement and negative punishment * reward schedules * theoretical principles of dog training, including: * conditioning principles and appropriate methods of rewarding dogs for exhibiting required behaviour * ethical and positive training methods that reinforce behaviour and maintain the working skills, happiness, enthusiasm and psychological welfare of the dog * responses that dogs should give to verbal or visual cues * relevant dog physiology, including: * olfactory perception * eyesight * physical dexterity * criteria to determine a dog's suitability to become an assistance dog: * dog breeds and associated characteristics and temperaments that make them desirable as assistance dogs * a dog's emotional maturity * a dog's temperament * dog/owner partnership interactions and requirements * a dog's observed assistive behaviour that would enable them to benefit a handler with a disability * awareness of how to enrich the assistance dog's physical, emotional, mental health and lifestyle needs * capabilities and limitations of assistance dogs * stress signals displayed by dogs, including: * sniffing * lip licking * individual dog body language that denotes stress * biosecurity requirements * provision for appropriate veterinary care and preventative health treatments * work health and safety procedures and principles, including: * manual handling of dogs * using training equipment safely * risk and control strategies * location of emergency equipment during training * equipment that may be used in dog training, including: * collars/ head haltis/ martingales * leads/leashes * balance harnesses * working jackets/coats/identification vests * markers/clickers * personal protective equipment (PPE) for handler if required. |

| 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: * equipment used in dog training as required for Performance Evidence * specifications: * workplace policies and procedures * relationships: * dogs * dog training teams.   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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