Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0. |

| ACMINF101 | Take responsibility for the health and welfare of animals in own care |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to care for the health and welfare of companion animals under an individual's personal responsibility. It covers duty of care, personal safety and hygiene, and welfare and health care of companion animals. The unit focuses on dogs and cats. It may cover other companion animals relevant to the community or workplace environment.  The unit applies to individuals who handle and care for companion animals in a community or neighbourhood context including shared animals. They work in known contexts dealing with routine tasks.  No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Infection control (INF) |

| 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 personal duty of care for companion animals | 1.1 Confirm with relevant personnel the key requirements of animal welfare and responsible pet/animal ownership  1.2 Compare own or community attitudes about animal welfare and responsible animal ownership and recognise any differences with prevalent society attitudes  1.3 Confirm relevant requirements governing animal ownership in own area, including registration, microchipping, confinement and desexing |
| 2. Maintain personal safety and hygiene when handling companion animals | 2.1 Wash hands after handling animals and cleaning animal environments  2.2 Check own skin and cover cuts and abrasions before handling animals to prevent infections  2.3 Observe animal behaviour for safety risks before approaching or handling  2.4 Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling animals and cleaning excrement and bodily fluids |
| 3. Protect the welfare of companion animals | 3.1 Supply clean water, appropriate food and bedding or shelter to promote animal health and wellbeing  3.2 Confine or restrain animals safely and humanely to protect from potential injuries, accidents and diseases and prevent behaviours that disturb others  3.3 Treat animals in a humane manner to avoid pain and suffering and maximise wellbeing  3.4 Use socialisation and reward-based training methods to encourage positive animal behaviours and avoid negative impacts on people and/or other animals |
| 4. Care for the health of companion animals | 4.1 Check the recommended vaccination requirements for relevant animals  4.2 Check animals regularly for signs of poor health and/or disease  4.3 Carry out routine control of internal and external parasites according to product or veterinary instructions  4.4 Seek advice or treatments from veterinarian, or local council or regional services, for animals needing care beyond own capability |

| 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 information on labels about products such as disinfectants and cleaning agents and routine animal treatments |
| Oral communication | * Use active listening and questioning techniques to obtain and give clear information to others |
| Numeracy | * Interpret measurements and other numerical information on product labels and user instructions |
| Navigate the world of work | * Recognise the importance of animal welfare and infection control in the concept of 'healthy animals equals healthy people' |
| Get the work done | * Plan activities relating to companion animal care and health to achieve positive outcomes |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMINF101 Take responsibility for the health and welfare of animals in own care | Not applicable | New unit | No equivalent unit |

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

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMINF101 Take responsibility for the health and welfare of animals in own care |
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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:   * safely handled at least three different companion animals * described or demonstrated steps taken to control animal behaviour with at least one companion animal * correctly recognised three different clinical signs of diseases in at least two different companion animal species * carried out at least three different animal care and infection control activities, from the list below, for at least two live companion animals: * providing food and fresh water and checking for contamination * treating parasites/skin conditions on animals * washing/grooming an animal * cleaning animal bedding * cleaning enclosures or yards * separating an animal with an infectious disease from other animals * organising veterinary or local council or regional services treatments * personal hygiene when handling or working with animals. | |

| 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:   * meaning of duty of care and animal welfare, including: * appropriate shelter and management including * provision of food and water * humane handling and treatment * health care, including disease prevention, vaccination and veterinary treatment * benefits to the community and to the animal, including: * desexing animals (chemical and surgical) for population control and health of animal and offspring * containing animals to protect people, wildlife and other animals * state/territory and/or local government requirements relating to animal registration, microchipping and desexing * basic companion animal behaviour and body language depicting different emotions, including distressed, aggressive, relaxed * links between human health and animal health * common animal infections and diseases, including: * mange/scabies * fleas and ticks * ringworm * worms, including tapeworm, hook worm, round worm * treatments for common infections and diseases that can be administered without veterinary advice * how diseases can be transmitted and spread, including: * between animals * between animals and people * routines to ensure clean water and appropriate food * optimal bedding or shelter requirements for specific animals in care * types of animal enclosures and environments that provide best protection for relevant companion animal * types of cleaning materials and disinfectants and how to use effectively * basic socialisation and rewards--based training methods for companion animals * humane handling and treatment to animals, including: * abusive behaviour including, physical violence, torment, neglect, or threats to safety * links between abuse of animals and abuse of people * consequences of neglecting animals. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in a community or workplace environment * resources, equipment and materials: * live companion animals * cleaning equipment and materials * personal protective equipment used in animal care.   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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