Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 2.0. |

| ACMVET405 | Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to coordinate surgery schedules, prepare the surgical environment and provide support for the veterinary surgeon, including before, during and after routine and non-routine surgical procedures and monitoring patients (animals) while they are under anaesthesia.This unit applies to veterinary nurses, who work independently under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who coordinate surgical routines need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of animal anatomy and physiology, and surgical procedures, typically carried out in a veterinary practice or hospital.Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to veterinary nurses but vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users must check with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery. |
| Prerequisite Units | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Veterinary Nursing (VET) |

| Element | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Prepare surgery schedules | 1.1 Prepare and prioritise surgery schedules using industry terminology in consultation with the veterinarian and theatre nurse1.2 Prepare and collate consent forms, anaesthesia monitoring records and other surgical documentation according to practice policy1.3 Manage surgery schedule in cooperation with the veterinarian |
| 2. Prepare for surgical procedures | 2.1 Communicate effectively with veterinarian and clients in relation to surgical preparation, procedures and post-recovery needs2.2 Select and position surgical packs, equipment and supplies for scheduled procedures2.3 Perform routine surgical site preparation procedures, including clipping, preparation of skin, and positioning animal2.4 Position anaesthetic machine and monitoring equipment2.5 Confirm that staff are appropriately dressed for surgery |
| 3. Provide support for surgical routines | 3.1 Hold, restrain or position anaesthetised animals during the surgical procedure3.2 Provide sterile and non-sterile assistance to the veterinarian according to aseptic techniques3.3 Provide theatre equipment to the veterinarian as required3.4 Dispose of clinical and other waste in compliance with biosecurity and hazardous waste protocols |
| 4. Perform post-operative procedures | 4.1 Monitor wound or surgical site for signs of abnormality4.2 Carry out defined post-operative patient management procedures according to veterinarian’s instructions4.3 Provide post-operative advice to the animal owner according to veterinarian’s instructions |
| 5. Clean, maintain and store theatre instruments, equipment and supplies | 5.1 Clean theatre environs5.2 Clean and sterilise instruments and theatre linen according to relevant Australian Standards5.3 Handle and store sterilised instruments and theatre equipment in a manner that maintains sterility5.4 Maintain equipment and stock of supplies5.5 Implement equipment maintenance procedures to ensure machines are operational |

| Foundation SkillsThis 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 | Access and follow information in policies and procedures, relevant Australian Standards and relevant legislationInterpret consent forms and anaesthesia monitoring records |
| Numeracy | Measure, monitor and interpret animal vital signs |
| Get the work done | Address irregularities and contingencies in the context of the work role |

| Unit Mapping Information |
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| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines | ACMVET405A Carry out surgical nursing routines | Updated to meet Standards for Training PackagesTitled updated to reflect changes to contentAssessment requirements revisedTwo units merged into oneWork placement requirement included | No equivalent unit |
| ACMVET405 Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines | ACMVET408A Coordinate and perform theatre routines | Updated to meet Standards for Training PackagesTitled updated to reflect changes to contentAssessment requirements revisedTwo units merged into oneWork placement requirement included | No equivalent unit |

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| Links | Companion Volume Implementation Guides are found in VETNet: https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103 |

| ACMVET405 | Coordinate and perform surgical nursing routines |
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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:coordinated and performed surgical nursing routines on a minimum of two occasions, covering at least two different species, including (for each):preparing the surgical environment and personnelmaintaining asepsis and following aseptic techniquespreparing animals for anesthesia and surgical procedures as directed by the veterinariancompleting post-operative care patient routinescleaning theatre and replenishing suppliesperformed the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during a period of at least 240 hours of work in a veterinary practice. |

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| Knowledge Evidence |
| 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:* animal anatomy and physiology related to surgical nursing routines
* aseptic techniques in veterinary surgery, including general theatre etiquette, dress rules and restricted areas
* practice policies and procedures related to preparation and cleaning of surgical suites
* legislative requirements and health regulations for the storage, use and disposal of chemicals and biological waste from veterinary procedures
* practice protocols for the storage, use and disposal of chemicals and biological debris from veterinary surgical procedures
* surgery schedule considerations, including:

sterile and non-sterilebody cavity invasive or superficialorthopaedicorthodonticsoft tissueemergency or urgentpresence of infectionthoraciccommon surgical procedures and the appropriate equipment used for each, relevant to the practice* skin antiseptics and their actions
* cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques
* surgical instruments and their use, including:

air-powered and electrical powered equipmentbone chucksbone plates and screwsclampsforcepsneedle holdersretractorsscalpelsscissorssuture materials* appropriate preparation of surgery packs, including identifying which packs are required for which procedures, grouping them for each patient and adding extra requirements, including scalpel blades and suture materials
* appropriate wound management procedures
* post-operative bandage, splint and cast care
* equipment used in theatre, including:

lightingactive warming* surgical supplies and their use, including:

cathetersdrainslaparotomy spongesneedles and suturesswabssyringesAustralian Standards relevant to sterilisation techniques* sterilisation techniques, including the operation of autoclaves and alternative sterilisation techniques, including gamma irradiation, ethylene oxide and chemical sterilisation and their associated health hazards
* anaesthetic equipment and supplies

dangers related to anaesthetic agentsaudible, visual or measured signs of pain, including:arching backbehavioural changesbiting and kickingelevated temperatureincreased respirationincreased vocalisationwithdrawal of affected limbsstrainingtrembling and changes in normal physiologypain scoring systemsvital signs and reflexes monitored under anaesthesia, including:blood pressurepulse rate and qualityrespiratory rate and effortrectal temperaturepulse oximetry and blood gasesend tidal carbon dioxideelectrocardiographycapillary refill timepalpebral reflexheart rate and rhythmmucous membrane colourpedal withdrawal reflexrelevant state and territory legislative requirements for animal welfarerelevant Veterinary Surgeons’ Act and Regulations. |

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| Assessment Conditions |
| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:* physical conditions:

in the workplace or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary surgery* resources, equipment and materials:
* a range of real, live animals
* equipment, instruments and resources typically available for veterinary surgery, including equipment used for post-operative care
* specifications:
* access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice
* relationships (internal and/or external):
* interactions with real clients
* interactions with a registered veterinarian who regularly carries out surgical procedures on animals.

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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