Modification history

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

| ACMVET406 | Nurse animals |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to provide high quality nursing care for patients (animals) treated or housed in a veterinary practice. It includes providing advice to clients (animal owners), monitoring animals and providing animal first aid as required.This unit applies to veterinary nurses, who work independently under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice. Veterinary nurses who nurse animals need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of animal anatomy, physiology and pharmacology.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.NOTE: The terms 'occupational health and safety' (OHS) and 'work health and safety' (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements. |
| 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. Identify patients and monitor clinical signs | 1.1 Identify patients according to features and fixed identification1.2 Perform preliminary examination of animal, document results and communicate to the veterinarian1.3 Interview client to obtain relevant information about animal1.4 Establish patient needs in consultation with the veterinarian1.5 Apply animal first aid according to veterinary advice |
| 2. Communicate with clients concerning hospitalised patients | 2.1 Counsel and inform clients of patient's progress and condition at regular intervals2.2 Check patient records to ensure routines are communicated to client |
| 3. Provide animal care in pain situations | 3.1 Identify animal anatomy and physiology, pharmacology and a range of analgesics as they relate to nursing animals3.2 Identify and record audible, visual or measurable signs of pain to assist in the identification of the need for analgesics3.3 Identify and report behavioural changes indicating pain3.4 Use an empathetic and caring approach in the husbandry of animals in pain3.5 Use compassionate and safe handling techniques according to WHS requirements3.6 Use industry recognised pain management techniques to minimise patient trauma |
| 4. Care for animals | 4.1 Provide nursing intervention for individual animals4.2 Implement prescribed routines and record treatments4.3 Carry out and record patient observations using industry terminology4.4 Return animals to owner or housing after treatment |
| 5. Care for hospitalised animals | 5.1 Provide basic animal welfare requirements5.2 Maintain environment specifically required for individual animals5.3 Monitor and facilitate patient’s bodily functions5.4 Carry out and record regular monitoring of patients5.5 Carry out industry-recognised animal psychological support in conjunction with patient monitoring |

| 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 |
| Numeracy | Weigh and measure animalsMonitor animal vital signsCalculate, measure and administer treatments as directed |
| Get the work done | Observe animals to recognise signs of pain or changes in conditionProblem-solve appropriate strategies for pain management techniquesAddress 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 |
| ACMVET406 Nurse animals | ACMVET406A Nurse animals | Updated to meet Standards for Training PackagesMinor changes to clarify contentAssessment requirements revisedWork 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 |

| ACMVET406 | Nurse animals |
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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:* provided nursing care for a minimum of two hospitalised animals, covering at least two species, including:

observing patients and maintaining accurate records for clinical signs, pain and behavioural changesinforming clients of patient’s progresshandling animals appropriately and providing psychological care techniques to reduce stress and discomfort* implemented prescribed routines, including:

bandage and wound careproviding exercise and physical therapyproviding enrichmentsupporting toiletingproviding nutritional supportcalculating drug and intravenous (IV) fluid dosagesmanaging indwelling apparatus, including catheters, intravenous catheters or feeding tubes* provided animal first aid as required for at least two of the following:

haemorrhagefractures or dislocationsburnsshockexopthalmushead traumaenvenomationpoisoninglacerationsrespiratory distress/dyspneaperformed 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 behaviour characteristics and traits
* animal pain management procedures and techniques
* techniques to measure animal vital signs, including:

blood pressurepulse rate and qualityrespiratory rate and effortrectal temperaturepulse oximetry and blood gaseselectrocardiograph (ECG)capillary refill timepalpebral reflexheart rate and rhythmmucous membrane colourpedal withdrawal reflexend tidal carbon dioxide* signs of pain, including:

biting, kicking and scratchingincreased blood pressureelevated temperatureincreased heart rateincreased respirationincreased vocalisationpale mucous membranesstraining or arching of the backtrembling and changes in normal physiologyprotecting/guarding effected areahidinginappetence* objective pain scoring systems
* barrier nursing principles
* animal anatomy and physiology, applied pharmacology and a range of analgesics related to nursing animals
* work health and safety and animal welfare legislative regulations and requirements
* routine animal health advice
* veterinary medications and chemicals, the relevant poisons schedule and the legislative requirements relevant to their use.
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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 practice* resources, equipment and materials:

a range of real, live animalsequipment, instruments and resources typically available for nursing animals* specifications:

organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice* relationships (internal and/or external):

interactions with real clientsinteractions with a registered veterinarian or minimum of Certificate IV qualified veterinary nurse.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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