Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 2 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 4.0. |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

| ACMSPE3X2 | Provide general care of invertebrates |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify invertebrates and their behavioural and physical needs and provide daily care requirements.This unit applies to individuals working in the animal care industry where it may be necessary to care for terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates. This may include aquariums, pet shops, zoos, animal technology facilities or similar workplaces. The unit applies to individuals who work under broad supervision and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable problems.All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil  |
| Unit Sector | Species Specific (SPE) |

| 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 invertebrates | 1.1 Identify key types of invertebrates using industry terminology1.2 Define the profile of invertebrates commonly housed in facility1.3 Identify external features using industry terminology1.4 Define, interpret and document colours, markings and other identifying features |
| 2. Identify and evaluate behavioural and housing needs | 2.1 Monitor water quality and make adjustments as required to maintain optimum water quality appropriate for the species being housed, as directed by supervisor2.2 Identify indicators of animal comfort and normal behaviour2.3 Recognise signs of distressed invertebrates and report to supervisor2.4 Identify industry standards and guidelines for housing design, environmental factors and appropriate stocking densities2.5 Evaluate current animal housing design in relation to the welfare of animals kept and legislation requirements2.6 Implement behavioural enrichment activities for specific species |
| 3. Catch, handle and restrain invertebrates | 3.1 Identify workplace health and safety risks associated with handling and restraining invertebrates, and implement methods to minimise risks3.2 Approach, catch and restrain invertebrates in a way that minimises risks to animal and others using humane handling techniques |
| 4. Assist with health care needs | 4.1 Identify signs of good health in invertebrates4.2 Report signs of disease or other conditions to supervisor4.3 Identify general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures and implement according to level of job responsibility |
| 5. Feed invertebrates | 5.1 Identify digestive system features and relate to species-specific feeding routines and diets5.2 Identify preferred feed sources and assess samples for quality and suitability5.3 Identify potential feeding hazards and implement risk control options5.4 Prepare food in accordance with dietary needs5.5 Distribute food according to schedule/feeding |
| 6. Maintain records | 6.1 Complete feed and treatment records noting food consumption, health and care activities6.2 Report abnormalities to supervisor6.3 Complete documentation relevant to licences and transport, where required |

| 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 | * Interpret key information and quantities specified on product labels
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| Numeracy | * Measure quantities of food and/or health treatments accurately
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| Unit Mapping Information |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMSPE3X2 Provide general care of invertebrates | ACMSPE308 Provide basic care of marine invertebrates | Two units mergedMinor changes to make content generic to invertebrates Revised assessment requirements to address terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates  | Equivalent unit |
| ACMSPE309 Provide basic care of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates | Equivalent unit |

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

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMSPE3X2 Provide general care of invertebrates |
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| Performance Evidence |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria in this unit.There must be evidence that the individual has:* identified the specific characteristics and needs of terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates
* provided general care for two invertebrates, either from:
* two different classification groups - terrestrial, marine or freshwater, or
* two different species of invertebrates from the same classification group.

In doing the above, the individual must have:* demonstrated appropriate safe handling techniques
* prepared and provided food
* assisted with housing care needs
* maintained feed and treatment records for each invertebrate.
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| 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:* anatomical structures and physiological features used to identify and classify terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates
* general health maintenance and preventative treatment procedures for terrestrial, marine and freshwater invertebrates
* housing, social and activity needs of invertebrates, and environmental impacts on health and wellbeing
* indicators of the physical condition and signs of good health in invertebrates
* natural invertebrate behaviour
* behaviour characteristics associated with different species:
* activity levels at certain times of day or night
* feeding behaviours
* defensive behaviour:
* defending territory, other animals or food
* hiding or retreating
* enrichment needs
* potential hazards and risks to animals and staff during feeding and cleaning of housing
* safe invertebrate species-specific handling techniques and procedures, potential hazards and control measures, including personal protective equipment
* the principles of animal welfare and basic overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks/models, including the Five Domains
* types and impacts of food in invertebrate diets, including natural dietary requirements for specific species
* indicators of food quality, including nutritional value, freshness/shelf life, free from spoilage/pests
* types of information reported and recorded in animal care workplaces
* key requirements of state/territory legislation and codes of practice related to invertebrates, biosecurity, health and safety and animal welfare.
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| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:* physical conditions:
* a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
* resources, equipment and materials:
* live invertebrates as stipulated in the performance evidence
* equipment and resources typically available in an invertebrate care environment
* specifications:
* access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation and relevant codes of practice
* relationships:
* interactions with supervisor.

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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