

**Modification history**

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

ACMGASXX1	Assess the welfare status of an animal
<b>Application</b>	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess the welfare status of an animal.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who work with animals in a range of environments and facilities. They take responsibility for monitoring, caring and reporting on the welfare of animals in their care.</p> <p>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</p> <p>No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
<b>Prerequisite Unit</b>	Nil
<b>Unit Sector</b>	General Animal Studies (GAS)

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Identify current animal welfare and management approaches	1.1 Identify issues relating to animal welfare and ethics in in animal work environments 1.2 Identify current animal welfare frameworks or models relevant to own sector 1.3 Investigate key compliance requirements of state/territory legislation, regulation, standards and guidelines, accreditation and/or codes of practice relevant to the animal work sector 1.4 Research approaches and tools used to assess and measure animal welfare
2. Use an assessment tool to determine an animal's welfare status	2.1 Identify and select an organisation or sector specific tool to assess the welfare of an animal 2.2 Observe and identify positive and negative physical and environmental factors impacting on the welfare of the animal 2.3 Observe animal behaviours and record positive and negative aspects over a pre-determined period 2.4 Assess the mental state of the animal based on analysis of physical, behavioural and environmental factors 2.4 Record observations and determine the animal's welfare status using an organisation or sector specific tool
3. Use assessment outcomes to improve an animal's welfare status	3.1 Analyse negative and positive outcomes recorded on the animal welfare assessment 3.2 Identify strategies to address any identified negative physical, behavioural or environmental factors impacting on the welfare of the animal 3.3 Identify opportunities to improve the animals' mental state and/or quality of life 3.4 Summarise and record recommended improvement actions
4. Communicate animal welfare and management outcomes	4.1 Seek assistance from supervisor, experts or team members to review recommended improvement actions 4.2 Provide information to relevant personnel on the welfare assessment of the animal

<b>Foundation Skills</b>	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>Skill</b>	<b>Description</b>
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas of strength and need, and plans ways to develop own knowledge of animal welfare and understanding of specific species</li> </ul>
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and interpret relevant information in a range of text materials</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete workplace forms accurately and completely using industry specific terminology to document observations and measurements of animal welfare assessment</li> <li>Produce succinct summary information from relevant records</li> </ul>
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses appropriate industry sector terminology in conversations with key personnel</li> </ul>

<b>Unit Mapping Information</b>			
<b>Code and title current version</b>	<b>Code and title previous version</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Equivalence status</b>
ACMGASXX1 <a href="#">Assess the welfare status of an animal</a>	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit]

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

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Assessment requirements for ACMGASXX1 Assess the welfare status of an animal</b>
<b>Performance Evidence</b>	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analysed at least one animal welfare framework or model and selected an assessment tool appropriate for own workplace</li> <li>• completed an animal welfare assessment of one animal or group of animals using an organisation or industry sector tool</li> <li>• analysed the outcomes of the animal welfare assessment and determined actions or strategies to improve physical and behavioural factors and mental state of the animal, including accessing advice from a supervisor or expert when necessary and appropriate</li> <li>• provided verbal and written advice to relevant personnel on the assessment process, outcomes and suggested actions to improve animal welfare.</li> </ul>	
<b>Knowledge Evidence</b>	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aspects of animal welfare, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• differences between animal care/husbandry, welfare and ethics</li> <li>• focus on an animal's experiences and how it is coping in its environment</li> <li>• welfare status can vary along a continuum from poor to good</li> </ul> </li> <li>• brief overview of relationship between society's attitudes toward animals and animal welfare, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• legislation and regulation</li> <li>• market and economic forces</li> <li>• varying stakeholder opinions, including animal rights activism and cultural protocols</li> </ul> </li> <li>• key compliance requirements of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• state/territory legislation, regulation, accreditation and/or codes of practice relevant to animal work sector</li> <li>• relevant sections of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines</li> </ul> </li> <li>• types of animal welfare assessment frameworks and/or models, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five Domains</li> <li>• Five Freedoms</li> <li>• Quality of Life</li> <li>• sector or workplace specific models.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• key features covered in an animal welfare assessment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nutrition</li> <li>• environment (social and physical)</li> <li>• health</li> <li>• behaviour</li> <li>• mental state</li> </ul> </li> <li>• overview of key animal welfare issues relevant to the industry sector or context</li> <li>• workplace or industry sector tools for assessing and managing animal welfare</li> <li>• practical sector-specific strategies to improve factors impacting on an animal's welfare, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• species-appropriate nutrition and physical environment</li> <li>• disease prevention and veterinary treatment</li> <li>• species-specific behaviours</li> <li>• knowledgeable and skilled care and management</li> <li>• humane handling.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment Conditions</b>	
Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:	

<b>Assessment Conditions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• physical conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions</li></ul></li><li>• resources, equipment and materials:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• live animal or realistic simulation</li></ul></li><li>• specifications:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• animal welfare assessment tool appropriate for workplace or sector</li></ul></li><li>• relationships:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• relevant personnel/stakeholder to report to.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.</p>

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