Modification history

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.

ACMGAS205	Assist in health care of animals
Application	This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to provide assistance to experienced staff in the capture, restraint and assessment of animals and the preparation, application and documentation of treatments.
	This unit applies to new entrants to the animal care and management industry. Animal care may occur in a wide variety of workplaces, including retail pet stores, boarding/day care facilities, shelters, veterinary clinics, zoos/wildlife sanctuaries, animal research facilities and others. In this context, individuals work under general supervision and exercise limited autonomy with some accountability for their own work. They undertake defined activities and work in a structured context.
	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.
	No licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication.
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	General Animal Studies (GAS)

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	*Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.*
1. Prepare to work with animals	1.1 Confirm the task to be undertaken with supervisor, including identifying potential hazards, risks and welfare needs of the animal 1.2 Take steps to control risks and hazards as directed 1.3 Prepare equipment appropriate to the task 1.4 Select appropriate personal protective equipment and ensure correct fit
2. Catch animal under supervision	2.1 Identify animals to be treated and confirm with supervisor 2.2 Observe and note animal behaviour prior to capture or restraint 2.3 Confirm methods to be used to catch, secure or restrain animals with supervisor 2.4 Confirm role of self and others in process 2.5 Approach cage or enclosure appropriately and capture animal using appropriate method 2.6 Assist with moving animal to inspection or treatment area
3. Assist in assessment of animals	3.1 Restrain animal appropriately 3.2 Identify external features and vital signs of animal health 3.3 Inspect animal's general health and wellbeing, under supervision 3.4 Record observations of patient made by supervisor
4. Assist in treatment of animals	4.1 Follow treatment protocols for common health maintenance issues 4.2 Prepare equipment and supplies according to instructions 4.3 Provide assistance in the application of treatments 4.4 Assist with basic first aid, following supervisor instructions 4.5 Document treatment on animal file 4.6 Complete post-treatment routines

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.

Skill	Description
Oral communication	• Listen carefully to instructions and ask questions to clarify and confirm

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGAS205 Assist in health care of animals	ACMGAS205 Assist in health care of animals	Minor changes to performance criteria - new PC4.4 Revised assessment requirements	Equivalent unit

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 ACMGAS205 Assist in health care of animals

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 assisted with the health care of a minimum of two different animals (covering at least two different species), including (for each):

- used safe and humane capture and restraint methods

assisted in the assessment of live animal's health, including observation of vital signs

assisted in treating the animal

- documented the treatment and care.

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 temperaments and behaviour and the associated risks to animals and humans
- common health maintenance issues and treatment protocols
- environmental regulations relating to the disposal of hazardous waste
- examination techniques for health status
- methods used to safely capture, restrain and examine animals
- signs of progress or deterioration in condition or health of animals
- common health maintenance treatments and basic first aid tasks
- the principles of animal welfare and ethics as set out in relevant codes of practice
- vital signs, their normal range and reasons for concern for measurements outside normal range.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - a workplace that accurately reflects a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - a range of live animals
  - equipment and resources typically available in an animal care facility
- relationships (internal and/or external):
  - interactions with supervisor.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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