

**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.

<b>ACMGAS306</b>	<b>Assist with conditioning animals</b>
<b>Application</b>	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to condition or train animals in order to modify their behaviour using a range of techniques. It involves assisting with formulating and implementing a conditioning or training plan, based on current, best practice animal behaviour learning theory and the ethical handling and welfare of animals.</p> <p>This unit applies to animal keepers and carers, who work under broad direction, typically in a team environment, and are required to take responsibility for their own work including, carrying out assigned tasks, organising processes, and working to schedules.</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. Develop a conditioning plan	1.1 Identify a range of desirable and undesirable behaviours for specific animals 1.2 Identify species-specific trainable behaviours in consultation with relevant personnel 1.3 Identify appropriate positive reinforcement techniques specific to the species or individual animal 1.4 Identify conditioned reinforcers in consultation with relevant personnel 1.5 Prepare the agreed conditioning plan according to workplace procedures
2. Condition a desirable behaviour	2.1 Establish a conditioned reinforcer with the animal to be trained 2.2 Demonstrate approximations to condition an animal 2.3 Monitor animal behavioural responses and modify approximations if required 2.3 Ensure that behaviour when demonstrated under stimulus control meets animal welfare and ethics requirements 2.4 Maintain record of behaviour being conditioned according to workplace procedures
3. Monitor and review a conditioning plan	3.1 Review the short-term and long-term objectives of the conditioning plan regularly in consultation with relevant personnel 3.2 Maintain records and update the conditioning plan regularly according to workplace procedures

<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>
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss conditioning plans and desired outcomes with team members</li> </ul>
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review key requirements of workplace policies and procedures, relevant to work role, for training and conditioning different animals and species</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>
ACMGAS306 Assist with conditioning animals	ACMGAS306 Assist with conditioning animals	Minor changes to performance criteria for clarity Changes to assessment requirements	Equivalent unit

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

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Assessment requirements for ACMGAS306 Assist with conditioning animals</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 assisted with conditioning at least two animals, including for each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prepared individual conditioning plans, incorporating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the application of principles of animal learning in relation to the desired behaviour/s</li> <li>• best practice positive reinforcement techniques and tools to condition/shape behaviour</li> </ul> </li> <li>• consulted at least one relevant person on the development and modifications to the conditioning plan</li> <li>• maintained accurate records of behaviour being conditioned for each animal.</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>• normal and unwanted animal behaviour and behaviour patterns relevant to species</li> <li>• basic principles animal behaviour and learning</li> <li>• purposes for conditioning animals</li> <li>• key concepts of animal conditioning and training, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive Training (LIMA)</li> <li>• Hierarchy of Procedures for Humane and Effective Practice</li> <li>• schedules of reinforcement</li> <li>• extinction of behaviour</li> <li>• successive approximation (shaping)</li> <li>• desensitisation and habituation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• techniques and tools used to condition behaviour</li> <li>• the principles of animal welfare and ethics</li> <li>• workplace policies and procedures, including health and safety and animal welfare relevant to conditioning animals.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment Conditions</b>	
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• live animals</li> <li>• rewards for reinforcing desirable behaviours in the animals</li> <li>• personal and protective equipment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• relationships (internal/external): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• team member/s or supervisor or other animal health worker .</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>	
<b>Links</b>	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: <a href="https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103">https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103</a>