

Modification history

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

ACMGRM4X1	Enhance companion animal coat and skin condition
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify and evaluate the condition of companion animal coat and skin and provide appropriate products and services in consultation with clients/carers.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who work in the companion animal industry sector where specialist grooming services are provided. These individuals analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of skilled activities and demonstrate deep knowledge in a specific technical area.</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>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Grooming (GRM)

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. Assess health and status of animal coat and skin	1.1 Follow workplace hygiene and infection control procedures when conducting initial assessment and grooming activities 1.2 Visually and physically examine and analyse animal coat and skin as part of pre-grooming assessment 1.3 Apply knowledge of skin anatomy, hair shaft and growth phases to identify health and status of skin and coat 1.4 Discuss signs of animal coat or skin condition with client and previous history where applicable 1.5 Explain benefits of grooming for coat or skin care with client
2. Recognise abnormal and other coat and skin conditions	2.2 Recognise abnormal conditions and report to client 2.3 Refer client to veterinarian to seek treatment advice 2.4 Identify common coat and skin conditions and consider suitable product options to enhance skin and coat 2.5 Discuss suitable products and obtain and obtain client agreement to proceed with recommendations
3. Apply products to enhance coat and skin	3.1 Review product ingredients and select products based on coat and skin analysis 3.2 Determine appropriate water temperature for bathing 3.3 Prepare, apply and remove products according to product instructions 3.4 Select drying process to aid compromised or damaged skin and/or coat 3.4 Use resources efficiently and dispose of waste safely according to workplace hygiene and environmental procedures
4. Provide follow-up service	4.1 Advise client of ongoing grooming schedules required 4.2 Advise on home care routines including products and equipment 4.3 Update animal records to include full details of service.

Foundation Skills	
<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>	
Skill	Description
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret product ingredients and content from labels and manufacturer information • Accurately interpret product information and instructions on grooming products and equipment, expiry dates and veterinary prescription labels
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use industry terminology when completing grooming documents
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine client and animal requirements through open-ended questioning, active listening, paraphrasing and summarising
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate quantities and dilution ratios for shampoos, products and disinfectants

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMGRM4X1 Enhance companion animal coat and skin condition	Not applicable	New unit	No 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
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for ACMGRM4X1 Enhance companion animal coat and skin condition
Performance Evidence	
<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"> • independently completed an assessment of the health and status of three different companion animals coat and skin to determine suitable grooming products options • identified at least ten active ingredients in grooming products (shampoo and/or conditioner) and their purpose/role • accurately identified at least five common animal skin and coat conditions and their visual signs, from the following list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skin sores and infections caused by external parasites • allergic dermatitis • fungal or bacterial infection • itchy skin - pruritus • seborhea (oily and flaky skin) • hair loss (alopecia) and dull coats. <p>In doing the above, the individual must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handled each animal in a safe and humane manner • communicated effectively with at least two clients/carers to ascertain the animal's condition • identified one condition requiring a referral to a veterinarian • implemented personal and workplace hygiene standards • selected, fitted and correctly use personal protective equipment • maintained records for each animal assessed. 	
Knowledge Evidence	
<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> <p>The Anatomy of Hair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • types of animal coats, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long/drop coat • double/heavy coat • combination/silky coat • fluffy/curly coat • short/smooth coat • basic skin biology, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • main structure, functions and role of skin • layers of skin, epidermis, dermis, hypodermis. • subcutaneous tissue • basement membrane • sebaceous gland, papilla and muscle types • PH of skin • hair shaft structure and features, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cuticle, medulla, cortex, apocrine, sweat gland • pigment types - tyrosinmelanin and pheomelanin • hair types - guard hairs, under hairs, tactile hairs • hair growth phases including telogen, catagen, anagen • common companion animal infections and skin conditions and their visual signs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skin sores and infections caused by external parasites including fleas, mites (mange) and ticks • allergic dermatitis - environment (atopy), food (hypersensitivity reaction) and acral lick dermatitis • fungal infections, including ringworm • bacterial infections - folliculitis, impetigo • seborhea (oily and flaky skin) and itchy skin (pruritus) • hair loss (alopecia) and dull coats 	

Knowledge Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skin colour or coat texture changes - potential metabolic or hormone conditions • impacted anal sac • conditions requiring referral to a veterinarian or other animal health practitioner • state/territory restrictions on the administration of specific medications • types and purpose of companion animal grooming products, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shampoos and coat conditioning/finishing products • health treatment products • internal supplements/nutriments • topical applications • types and role of shampoo/product ingredients, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH value • Sodium Laureth/Lauryl Sulfate • Tar • Co Co Amide • Propylene Glycol • Parabens • Ethyl Alcohol • personal protective equipment suitable for handling, assessing and treating animal coat and skin conditions, including gloves, masks, closed/non-slip shoes, and goggles • impact of water temperature and PH and drying processes on skin and coat conditions • reasons for and key features of standard infection-control precautions.

Assessment Conditions
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions • resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live companion animals • range of grooming products • manufacturer product information and support materials • personal protective equipment required to handle and assess animal coat and skin conditions • relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clients/carers stipulated in the performance evidence. <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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