

Modification history

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

ACMNEW5X1	Manage and modify complex animal behaviour
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to interpret and assess animal behaviour and work with clients to develop training and management programs to address complex animal behaviour issues.</p> <p>This unit applies to individuals working as behaviour or training consultants who provide advanced animal training and behaviour management services for individual (personal) clients and for professional clients (veterinarians and veterinary behaviour consultants). They analyse, plan and implement programs to manage behavioural issues requiring the application of current animal learning theory and concepts.</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	Companion Animals (CAS)

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. Research and maintain current information on animal training and behaviour management	1.1 Identify common behavioural issues, including context-specific, undesirable and maladaptive behaviours, in relevant species 1.2 Recognise behavioural indicators of different emotional states in animals and their potential consequences 1.3 Research information on current ethical, scientifically validated approaches to training and behaviour management 1.4 Evaluate consequences of different philosophical approaches and methodologies, and equipment used for training and behaviour management
2. Assess animal and individual client requirements	2.1 Obtain information from the client about the animal's history and desired goals 2.2 Assess information provided and determine personal competency to undertake work with client 2.3 Refer client to another animal professional if the case is beyond personal competency 2.4 Conduct initial assessment of animal, client/animal relationship and environment 2.5 Analyse findings and discuss and confirm potential training and behaviour management approaches, methodology and techniques with client

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
3. Consult veterinary behaviour consultant to determine requirements	3.1 Accept referrals from veterinary behaviour consultant 3.2 Review animal history and background information, and desired goals provided by consultant 3.3 Discuss behaviour management methodology, techniques and proposed program with consultant 3.4 Establish arrangements for reporting progress and issues to veterinary behaviour consultant
4. Implement constructive management and training techniques	4.1 Implement the agreed training and behaviour management program establishing measurable goals and outcomes for handler and animal 4.3 Provide clear instruction and support to handler in training the animal 4.4 Use humane techniques to reinforce behaviours and manage successive approximations for animal to achieve goals 4.5 Provide constructive feedback to client/s on progress throughout program 4.6 Educate clients on reasonableness of expectations and agreed goals
5. Evaluate outcomes of training and behaviour management program	5.1 Compare program outcomes with intended goals and measures 5.2 Seek further advice from veterinary behaviour consultant or other professional to address unresolved issues, if required 5.3 Discuss strategies with the client and/or veterinary behaviour consultant to maintain longer term management and training goals 5.4 Provide advice and instruction in ongoing training and behaviour management 5.5 Maintain training and client records according to workplace requirements

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
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and develop strategies to maintain knowledge of current, scientifically validated animal behaviour and management techniques
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately interpret critical information from legislative and scientific documentation related to animal training and behaviour management
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use industry terminology and accepted formats when completing professional reports
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine client requirements through open-ended questioning, active listening, paraphrasing and summarising Use appropriate language to explain animal training and behaviour concepts to professionals and non-professionals

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMNEW5X1 Manage and modify complex companion animal behaviour	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for ACMNEW5X1 Manage and modify complex animal behaviour
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"> • researched strategies to address complex animal behaviour management issues relating to two of the following emotional states: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fear • anxiety • aggression • developed, implemented and evaluated a training and behaviour management program to address different behavioural issues for two animals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one working collaboratively with a veterinary behaviour consultant • one working directly with an individual client. 	
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • professional ethics for work in animal training and behaviour sector, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal competency - knowledge and expertise • business ethics, informed consent and confidentiality • protocols for working with other professionals, including veterinarians/veterinary behaviour consultants • use of humane, ethical methodologies and techniques • current scientifically validated animal learning theory/ethology including associative and non-associative learning • healthy social behavioural signs with animals and people • signs of emotional states and their social and environmental triggers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anxiety • fear • aggression • species-specific animal body language and behavioural signs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • posture and position of body parts, including ears, tail, focus of eyes and/or tongue/mouth • vocalisation (where relevant) • current, scientifically validated approaches of behaviour management and training, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive Training (LIMA) • Hierarchy of Procedures for Humane and Effective Practice • schedules of reinforcement • features of outdated approaches to animal behaviour and training and possible consequences • formats for and how to conduct animal behaviour assessments and analyses • formats for documenting training and behaviour management plans • safe animal handling and humane restraint techniques and procedures, including commonly used animal training equipment • principles of animal welfare and ethics. 	
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 animals as required in the performance evidence • relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • veterinary behaviour consultant and individual client specified in the performance evidence 	

Assessment Conditions	
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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