Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 6.0

ACMADT4X1	Assess prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog
Application	This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess prospective handlers' suitability for an assistance dog.
	The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources and complete activities that require empathy and behavioural analysis of prospective handlers and dogs.
	All work must be carried out to comply with Commonwealth, state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations.
	No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Assistance Dog Training

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	*Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.*
1. Determine the prospective handler's assistance needs	1.1 Review referral and other information to gain an indication of prospective handler's personal care support requirements 1.2 Discuss purpose of care needs assessment with parties involved including prospective handler and/or carer and/or family, referencing the role assistance dogs can play 1.3 Identify prospective handler's household situation, including other pets, other household members and any allergies that may be impacted 1.4 Assess prospective handler's expectations, noting limitations of an assistance dog's assistive behaviour and discuss human/assistance dog bond 1.5 Gather and record information according to workplace policies and procedures
2. Determine if an assistance dog would improve prospective handler's personal welfare	2.1 Discuss environmental risk assessment issues for functions associated with prospective handler's care needs 2.2 Liaise with prospective handler regarding issues that may be relevant to their circumstances 2.3 Work with prospective handler to assess if an assistance dog would improve their personal welfare 2.4 Explain process of attaining an assistance dog and manage prospective handler's expectations of types of support an assistance dog can provide
3. Determine the prospective handler's ability to care for an assistance dog	3.1 Discuss needs of assistance dog with prospective handler, including contingency planning for dog's care when required 3.2 Determine prospective handler's ability to meet assistance dog's nutritional and housing needs, and enrich dog's physical, emotional, mental health and lifestyle needs 3.3 Determine if prospective handler can satisfy animal welfare regulatory/legislative requirements 3.4 Determine if prospective handler is motivated for a long term reciprocal relationship with a dog beyond the assistive tasks it can provide 3.5 Assess possible distractions and/or challenges to the dog's needs and in relation to the dog providing required in home and/or public access assistance

Commented [RF1]: Should this be 'medical referral'?

Commented [RF2]: Confirm wording - is this correct?

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	*Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.*
4. Determine if a dog is suitable as an assistance dog	4.1 Determine if being an assistance dog is in the welfare interests of the dog 4.2 Determine if a dog's temperament, needs, health, capability and behaviour are suited to a handler's assistive requirements and public access, if required
5. Make assessment and complete documentation	5.1 Use information gathered to determine the prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog 5.2 Discuss findings with the prospective handler 5.3 Complete prospective handler suitability assessment documentation for an assistance dog according to personal requirements and workplace procedures

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**
Reading	• Gather and interpret medical and personal care requirements from approved sources to identify relevant and key information
Writing	• Address all criteria matching assistance dogs with prospective handler incorporating appropriate vocabulary, grammatical structure and conventions appropriate to text and audience

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	**Code and title previous version**	**Comments**	**Equivalence status**
ACMADT4X1 Assess prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog			Newly created

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72

TITLE	**Assessment requirements for ACMADT4X1 Assess prospective handler's suitability for an assistance dog**

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:

- assessed and documented four prospective handlers' with at least two different personal care support requirements, with a view to determining an assistance dog's suitability in meeting prospective handlers' needs and prospective handlers' ability to care for and provide a good lifestyle for the dog
  - one of the two different person support requirements must include a prospective handler with declining and/or fluctuating functionality.

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:

- awareness of human disability or disorders that may require the employment of an assistance dog, including:
  - physical
  - sensory
  - mental health
  - neurological, including neurodegenerative
  - developmental
- factors that indicate that a prospective handler is able to care for an assistance dog, including:
  - being able to participate in the dog's training process
  - being able to independently train and care for an assistance dog
  - having a stable home with access to suitable rest
  - ensuring prospective handler's carers, if relevant, can also care for the dog's welfare and lifestyle
  - financial capability to provide the dog's basic veterinary needs, including desexing, grooming and preventatives
  - understanding the principle of consent testing and the dog's readiness to work
  - being able to ensure the dog's physical, social, emotional and mental wellbeing
  - being motivated for a long term reciprocal relationship with a dog during its lifetime beyond the assistive tasks that it can provide
  - previous animal experience
  - satisfying minimum standards around police check, alcohol issues, history of violence and fence height
- methods of communicating effectively and sensitively to handlers
- relevant legislation/regulations as they relate to an assistance dog's public access
- pet insurance options
- dog breeds and breed types and associated characteristics and temperaments that make them desirable as assistance dogs
- types of support that an assistance dog can provide
- environmental risk assessment liaison requirements
- animal welfare practices as conceptualised in the five domains:
  - nutrition
  - environment
  - health
  - behaviour
  - mental state
- contingency planning for the care of an assistance dog in a temporary handler separation circumstance
- workplace care assessment documentation, including record-keeping and privacy requirements.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

ACMADT4X1 Assess prospective handlers' suitability for an assistance dog

Assessment Conditions

• physical conditions:
    • skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents assistance dog training workplace conditions with prospective assistance dogs
• resources, equipment and materials:
    • handler's medical referral
    • relevant dog training and animal welfare regulations
• specifications:
    • workplace policies and procedures
• relationships:
    • prospective handlers.
 	
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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Commented [RF3]: Is this correct? Will this be accessible/available to all learners? Should this be here?