## ACMVET5X31 Conduct veterinary nurse clinics

#### Unit outcomes

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct veterinary nurse clinics across a range of animal health, behaviour, preventative care, reproductive, and chronic disease management contexts, while working under the broad supervision of a registered veterinarian.

Individuals apply broad and integrated technical knowledge of animal health, behaviour, common clinical conditions, treatment protocols and client education frameworks to deliver safe, evidence-based services that support veterinary care plans.

Clinics may include administering prescribed vaccinations and medications where administration is within legal scope of practice, monitoring chronic disease and weight-management programs, providing wound care and post-operative outpatient nursing services, performing minor clinical procedures, delivering behavioural support and environmental modification advice, and providing reproductive and neonatal support information.

Work is performed with a high degree of autonomy and professional judgement in sometimes unpredictable situations. Individuals research and interpret current, species-specific information to guide client education, and escalate to the supervising veterinarian when presentations fall outside workplace protocols or legal scope of practice.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to the permitted scope of veterinary nursing practice, including the provision of animal health advice, nursing care and administration of treatments, and vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users of this unit must confirm current requirements with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

#### Knowledge

* scope and purpose of veterinary nurse clinics, including boundaries between nurse-led activities and veterinarian only procedures, and legislative requirements governing medication and vaccine administration
* processes for assessing animals during nurse clinics and identification of findings requiring veterinary input
* principles of vaccination, including immunity development, vaccine types, handling and storage requirements, contraindications, potential adverse reactions and post-vaccination monitoring
* mechanisms of action, clinical indications, dosing and administration requirements, expected therapeutic effects, limitations, adverse reactions and monitoring needs for prescribed monthly medications and injectable therapies commonly used in veterinary practice
* wound healing processes and factors affecting healing, indicators of infection or complications and principles and techniques for management of wounds and post-operative procedures
* indications for minor clinical procedures, techniques to perform to perform minor clinical procedures, normal and abnormal findings, and when findings require veterinary review
* foundations of animal behaviour and behavioural science, including normal species-specific behavioural patterns, stress indicators, environmental stressors, and principles of environmental enrichment, desensitisation and counterconditioning
* nutritional principles and body condition assessment relevant to weight-management programs, including factors contributing to obesity, safe weight-loss targets and monitoring strategies
* common chronic diseases encountered in companion animal practice and nurse-led support activities within veterinary-directed care plans
* reproductive physiology of companion animals and when reproductive or neonatal findings require veterinary intervention
* research and evidence-based principles, including methods for identifying, evaluating and applying current and credible veterinary information to support client education
* professional and ethical responsibilities in conducting veterinary nurse clinics, including consent, confidentiality, documentation, patient advocacy, communication of clinic limitations and evidence-based advice
* effective communication techniques for engaging with clients, managing sensitive discussions, supporting behavioural or lifestyle change, confirming understanding and tailoring information to diverse client needs
* workplace health and safety, infection prevention and control (IPC) and low stress animal handling requirements that ensure safe, professional and welfare focused service provision

#### Skills

* collect and review patient histories and presenting concerns, plan clinic activities and prepare required equipment, medications and resources
* use correct preparation, handling and administration techniques to administer prescribed vaccinations and medications within legal and workplace scope of practice, and monitor animals for adverse reactions
* perform wound management, minor clinical and post-operative care procedures
* assess behavioural concerns, identify triggers and stress indicators, provide evidence-based behavioural and environmental management advice and determine when referral is required
* deliver structured programs for weight management and chronic disease support, including collecting patient data, interpreting trends, adjusting plans within nurse scope and supporting client adherence
* provide evidence-based reproductive and neonatal information appropriate to nurse role and workplace protocols, and recognise abnormal signs requiring veterinary review
* communicate effectively with clients, using clear explanations, motivational strategies, empathetic techniques and confirmed understanding to support decision-making and care compliance
* research credible information sources to support patient-specific education and maintain current knowledge relevant to nurse-led clinic practice
* record accurate and comprehensive clinical notes, update care plans, identify follow-up needs and communicate relevant findings to the supervising veterinarian
* use infection prevention and control and low-stress handling techniques and work health and safety procedures to protect the safety and welfare of animals, clients and practice personnel

#### Application of knowledge & skills

This unit applies to work carried out by experienced veterinary nurses who conduct veterinary nurse clinics in general or specialist veterinary practice settings. Individuals apply integrated factual, technical and theoretical knowledge to assess animals, administer treatments, deliver tailored advice and support veterinarian directed care plans.

They use judgement to interpret clinical findings, recognise when presentations exceed their role boundaries and determine appropriate escalation pathways.

Work is performed under general veterinary supervision, with responsibility for maintaining professional standards, ensuring accurate documentation, supporting client adherence and promoting positive animal health outcomes.

#### Pre-requisite unit Nil

#### Unit sector

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

#### Foundation skills

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
| 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |

**Assessment Requirements**

**Performance evidence**

Individuals must apply the knowledge and skills specified in the unit of competency to:

* conduct a minimum of eight veterinary nurse clinics covering at least three different species, including a minimum of:

two preventative care or medication administration clinics involving advising on and administering prescribed vaccinations or injectable therapies

two wound care or post operative care clinics involving dressing or bandage changes, suture/staple removal or drain care

one chronic disease or weight management clinic involving health data collection, plan development and client coaching

one clinic involving performing minor clinical procedures, such as ear cleaning or anal gland expression.

**Knowledge evidence**

To demonstrate the application of the knowledge specified in this unit of competency, individuals must have knowledge of:

* vaccination purposes, processes, contraindications and potential adverse reactions
* prescribed medications and injectable therapies used in veterinary practice, including their mechanisms, indications, contraindications and monitoring requirements, including for:

allergy

osteoarthritis

chronic disease

* normal and abnormal wound healing indicators and principles of dressing, bandaging and post-operative monitoring, including:

bandage application

suture or staple removal

drain care

* behavioural signs associated with stress, fear, anxiety and aggression and behavioural and environmental management strategies appropriate for nurse led support
* principles and monitoring needs of common chronic diseases including diabetes mellitus, osteoarthritis, chronic kidney disease or dermatological allergies
* nutritional and metabolic factors related to weight management
* anal gland anatomy, function, common conditions relevant to anal gland expression and procedures to express anal glands
* anatomy and physiology of the ear, indication and contraindications for ear cleaning, common ear diseases and clinical presentations and ear cleaning solutions, instruments, materials and techniques
* reproductive and neonatal developmental indicators and abnormal signs requiring veterinary intervention:

oestrous cycles

pregnancy indicators

normal parturition stages

neonatal development milestones

risks of dystocia

neonatal compromise

* credible information sources and methods for applying evidence-based information in nurse-led clinics
* ethical, professional and communication responsibilities for delivering client education and documenting clinical findings
* WHS, infection prevention and control and low-stress handling procedures relevant to veterinary nurse clinics

**Assessment conditions**

Skills must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice.

Assessment must ensure access to:

* real animals or animal models for clinical simulation
* clinical equipment, instruments, consumables and prescribed medications appropriate to workplace protocols
* real or realistically simulated client interactions
* organisational policies and procedures for treatments, infection prevention and control and animal handling
* current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice relevant to WHS, handling and administering medications and poisons and veterinary nursing scope of practice
* resources, including digital resources, for information and research

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

#### Unit mapping information

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code and title current version** | **Code and title previous version** | **Equivalence status** | **Comments** |
| ACMVET5X31 Conduct veterinary nurse clinics | Not applicable | Newly created | The veterinary nursing industry identifies that the veterinary shortage has significantly increased the demand for veterinary nurses to perform more advanced skills and operate with greater autonomy in the provision of services to both animals and clients, requiring enhanced knowledge to conduct nursing clinics with clients about a broad and complex range of animal health and behaviour issues. |

### Overview information

#### Modification History

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| --- | --- |
| **Release** | **Comments** |
| 1 | This unit of competency was first released in ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Release 7.0. |

**Mandatory workplace requirements:**

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.