## ACMVET4X11 Perform veterinary dental nursing procedures

#### Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to perform dental prophylaxis and assist with simple extractions. It includes applying technical and procedural knowledge to carry out dental cleaning, scaling and polishing, and assisting with the preparation, monitoring and post-procedural care of animals undergoing dental treatment.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work independently to perform routine dental nursing procedures within their legal scope of practice, under the direction and supervision of a registered veterinarian. Veterinary nurses who perform dental nursing procedures need to hold and apply knowledge of anatomy of animal oral cavities, including teeth, bone and gums.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to veterinary nurses performing dental procedures but vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users must check with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

#### Pre-requisite unit Nil

#### Unit sector

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

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| **Elements** *Elements describe the essential outcomes.* | **Performance criteria**  *Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.* |
| 1. Prepare for and assist with oral health assessment of animals | 1.1 Verify patient details, assessment type, and supervising veterinarian’s instructions  1.2 Apply infection-control, work health and safety (WHS) and animal welfare requirements when performing dental nursing procedures, including use of personal protective equipment (PPE)  1.3 Prepare the dental area for oral health assessment, including required equipment and instruments, according to veterinary instructions and workplace protocols  1.4 Use low-stress handling techniques to restrain and position patient for oral health assessment and dental procedure, including anaesthetic induction, if required  1.5 Assist the veterinarian to perform extra and intraoral examination and oral health assessment, as instructed |
| 2. Complete dental chart | 2.1 Record patient details and current home dental care  2.2 Use a recognised dental encoding system  2.3 Record veterinarian’s pre-treatment pathology and treatment plan  2.4 Record post-treatment dentition using industry terminology |
| 3. Perform dental procedures under veterinary supervision | 3.1 Confirm procedural requirements and veterinary instructions for dental cleaning and polishing  3.2 Set up the dental station, associated dental equipment, instruments and materials  3.3 Assist the veterinarian with simple extractions  3.4 Clean, including scaling, and polish teeth as directed by the supervising veterinarian  3.5 Document veterinarian’s post-operative patient management programs using industry terminology |
| 4. Undertake post-dental treatment routines | 4.1 Clean, sharpen, maintain and store dental instruments and equipment  4.2 Monitor patient post-operatively for signs of abnormality and pain, and report observations to veterinarian  4.3 Provide post-dental advice to the animal owner according to veterinarian’s instructions |

#### Foundation skills

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| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
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**Assessment Requirements**

**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:

* prepared for and assisted with the oral health assessment of at least two animals, each of a different species
* prepared for and performed dental prophylaxis under veterinary supervision or instruction for at least two animals, each of a different species
* provided post-operative care and home advice for each patient
* assisted with a minimum of one simple extraction.

Performance must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice where dental procedures are carried out on real animals.

**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:

* anatomy of the oral cavity, including teeth, bone and gums
* instruments and equipment required to perform dental prophylaxis and simple teeth extractions under general anaesthetic
* safe set up and effective use of dental equipment and instruments
* dental charting systems and industry conventions, including numbering systems and common symbols used to record oral health findings
* techniques used to maintain serviceability of instruments and equipment in clean, sharp and lubricated condition
* WHS and animal welfare legislative requirements and veterinary associations’ guidelines related to dental procedures
* personal protective equipment required for veterinary dental procedures
* techniques for performing dental prophylaxis and assisting with simple extractions
* state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the performance of dental procedures by veterinary nurses
* post-operative homecare advice to reduce dental and gingival disease, including:

dietary recommendations

appropriate oral-care products and procedures available

principle and practice of daily brushing for relevant species

**Assessment conditions**

Skills must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice where dental procedures are carried out on real animals.

Assessment must ensure access to:

* real animals as specified in the Performance Evidence
* equipment, instruments and consumables typically available in a veterinary practice for dental procedures
* digital or paper-based dental charts
* PPE.

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** |
| ACMVET4X11 Perform veterinary dental nursing procedures | ACMVET410 Carry out veterinary dental nursing procedures | Equivalent | Changes to Application wording to remove reference to ‘examining’ the patient.  Minor change to wording of legislative requirements to be specific to veterinary nurses performing dental procedures rather than just applying to veterinary nurses  E1 changed from ‘perform oral examination’ to ‘prepare for and assist with oral health assessment’. PCs 1.1 – 1.5 changed to remove reference to veterinary nurse ‘conducting examinations’ and reporting their ‘findings’, rather following procedures and instructions, setting up and assisting the veterinarian to perform the oral examination and assessment.  PC3.1 moved to 1.2. PC 3.4 and 3.6 merged to 3.4 ‘clean, including scaling, and polish teeth as directed by the supervising veterinarian’. Remove ‘following the AAVA Dental Policy and Guidelines’ included in KE as veterinarian association’s guidelines.  Changed wording of PE to replace performing oral examination with assisting with an oral health examination, and remove duplication of PC  Removed reference to specific number of hours for performing the activities in PE and replaced with  ‘Performance must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice where dental procedures are carried out on real animals’  KE: added dental charting systems and industry conventions (numbering systems and symbols)  Assessment conditions: wording changed.  ‘interactions with a ‘minimum of CIV qualified veterinary nurse’ removed, as dental procedures can only be performed on anaesthetised patients, and only registered veterinarian can administer anaesthesia. |

### 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:**   
Mandatory workplace requirements apply to this unit of competency and are specified in the Performance Evidence and Assessment Conditions of the Assessment Requirements.