## ACMVET4X12 Perform clinical pathology procedures

#### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to collect biological samples from animals and perform pathology procedures, including preparing consignments for diagnostic laboratories and assisting with post-mortem examination.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work under the supervision of a registered veterinarian.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to performing pathology procedures including sample collection and 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 pathology procedure | 1.1 Confirm pathology procedure or sample collection method as directed by veterinarian  1.2 Obtain equipment and resources for pathology procedure or sample collection method  1.3 Confirm identify of patient and prepare patient for pathology or sampling procedure  1.4 Prepare equipment and instruments for pathology collection of samples during post-mortem examination by veterinarian |
| 2. Collect and process samples | 2.1 Collect samples as directed  2.2 Label, package and store samples according to relevant pathology procedure and laboratory requirements  2.3 Update patient record to reflect sample collection completed |
| 3. Perform and record appropriate tests | 3.1 Prepare slides for microscopic examination  3.2 Perform pathology tests according to relevant procedure  3.3 Record test results in patient record and notify the attending veterinarian |
| 4. Finalise pathology procedures and dispose of waste | 4.1 Store or dispose of samples and biological waste according to practice requirements  4.2 Safely dispose of waste according to practice requirements  4.3 Clean and sterilise or disinfect equipment and instruments |

#### Foundation skills

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
| 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

**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:

* collected, packaged and labelled biological samples from a minimum of three species, where the samples include at least 1 of each of the following:

blood draw

faeces collection

urine collection

* collected, packaged and labelled biological samples of at least two of the following:

microbial swab

skin scrapings

hair samples

saliva

wound material

milk

* performed laboratory tests and recorded results for each of a urine sample, faecal sample, blood sample and hair sample, including:

pathology sample staining

packed cell volume (PCV) or hematocrit (HCT)

total protein

urine specific gravity

* set up for and collected post-mortem samples as directed by veterinarian at least once.

**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:

* types of pathology tests, including:

biochemistry

haematocrit

haematology

serological tests

total serum protein

white cell count

urinalysis

use of dipstick tests

Hendra virus exclusion tests

tests for internal and external parasites

* animal anatomy and physiology related to pathology sampling procedures
* industry terminology related to pathology procedures
* pathology sampling and testing procedures, including:

sample collection methods, including appropriate sampling sites

sample storage requirements

labelling and recordkeeping

sample dispatch and transport requirements

* equipment and instruments used for sample collection
* use of laboratory equipment and materials for pathology testing, including:

setting-up and using a microscope for examination of samples

haematology machine

centrifuge

refractometer

* equipment and set up for post-mortem
* asceptic techniques
* practice policies, procedures and requirements related to the collection of pathology samples, including:

safety procedures

infection prevention and control (IPC) requirements and standard precautions for clinical procedures

patient identification and recordkeeping of tests and results

waste disposal

* physical and biological risks associated with sample collection and handling
* normal ranges for pathology test results that veterinary nurses perform.

**Assessment conditions**

Skills must be demonstrated in a veterinary practice or an environment that accurately represents real workplace conditions.

Assessment must ensure access to:

* a range of real animals or animal models
* a range of collected samples
* carcase and/or samples appropriate for post-mortem sample collection
* equipment, instruments and resources for the collection of pathology samples
* personal protective equipment
* laboratory equipment, equipment and resources for conducting laboratory tests
* manufacturer’s operating instructions for specialised equipment.

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** |
| ACMVET4X12 Perform clinical pathology procedures | ACMVET403 Perform clinical pathology procedures | Equivalent | Minor update to Application  Legislative, licensing and regulatory language has been clarified  Elements and Performance Criteria have been re-structured throughout to match workflow  Skills and knowledge for post-mortem examination have been embedded in multiple Performance Criteria’s and included explicitly in Performance Evidence  Assessment conditions clarified  Work placement hours removed |

### 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.