## ACMVET5X19 Enhance professional practice in veterinary nursing

#### Unit outcomes

This unit describes the knowledge and skills required for veterinary nurses to enhance their professional practice. It includes communicating at advanced clinical levels with veterinarians, allied health professionals and practice staff, seeking out, evaluating and applying clinical and emergent practices and procedures in veterinary nursing, and contributing to the development of practice staff.

Graduates of the unit will be able to collaborate with multidisciplinary veterinary health professionals and contribute to the improvement of nursing practices and development of staff through the application of evidence-based information.

The unit has broad application to advanced veterinary clinical nursing roles in general practice, referral and specialist centres, animal hospitals, and emergency/critical care facilities.

Work is undertaken under the supervision of a registered veterinarian, with substantial autonomy, responsibility for quality outcomes, and accountability for managing complex or unpredictable communication tasks in the clinical environment.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

#### Knowledge

* scope, roles and functions of veterinary health care professionals and intra and inter-veterinary services involved in case management, referral pathways and continuity of care.
* strategies and frameworks for clinical communication, including liaison, verification of instructions and the management of sensitive or complex information.
* advanced veterinary terminology, abbreviations and clinical language relevant to case notes, diagnostics, procedures, treatments and patient monitoring
* sources, characteristics and limitations of veterinary clinical information, including research literature, clinical data, practice records, protocols, and professional guidelines
* principles of research and information review and evaluation, relevance to scope of practice and appropriate application within the practice
* ethical, legal and professional conduct frameworks governing veterinary nursing communication, confidentiality, information security, consent, documentation standards and privacy.
* principles and benefits of, and strategies for collaboration with veterinary professionals, including identifying personal and practice relevant professional development needs and opportunities

#### Skills

* interact with relevant veterinary health care professionals and intra and inter-veterinary services according to case needs and scope of practice
* apply advanced communication skills to exchange complex clinical or procedural information with veterinarians, allied health providers and practice staff
* use veterinary terminology and abbreviations accurately when preparing or relaying clinical information
* evaluate and integrate clinical information and research findings to support evidence-based improvements to workplace practices and procedures.
* evaluate the quality, reliability and bias of data, information and research
* prepare and deliver professional development activities, including case studies, literature reviews, presentations, and reflective reports for practice staff, peers or public audiences
* identify emerging knowledge and skill needs
* monitor, analyse and report changes in veterinary nursing techniques, treatments or protocols and facilitate their appropriate integration into the practice environment, within scope of practice
* use high-level written and verbal communication skills to prepare reports, update records, maintain information security, and provide clear, accurate documentation.

#### Application of knowledge & skills

This unit applies to work carried out by individuals in veterinary practice settings who support and enhance professional practice through advanced communication, intra and inter-veterinary collaboration and analysing evidence-based approaches to clinical nursing.

Individuals use judgement to interpret, synthesise and communicate complex clinical information, protocols and instructions, and align external veterinary health care professionals or services with specific case needs. They critically evaluate clinical data, professional guidelines and published research literature to identify improvements to workplace practices and appropriately communicate recommendations to supervising veterinarians and colleagues. They prepare and deliver structured professional development activities, including case reviews and literature analyses, and support others to develop skills and knowledge within the limits of their role.

Work is performed under broad supervision, with accountability for the accuracy, clarity and confidentiality of information shared, and for contributing to the continuous improvement of professional veterinary nursing practice.

#### Pre-requisite unit

Nil

#### Unit sector

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

#### Foundation skills

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Oral communication** | **Numeracy** |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 |

**Assessment Requirements**

**Performance evidence**

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

* liaise with at least three different veterinary health care professionals or inter-veterinary services, each about a different clinical case or practice need
* accurately explain case information to clients for a minimum of three patients, where each case involves a different species and clinical procedure
* critically evaluate data, research or information relating to a minimum of two new or emergent treatments, protocols or procedures, and make a minimum of one recommendation for practice improvement
* identify a minimum of two emerging knowledge or skill needs in veterinary nursing and for each, identify a professional development approach
* facilitate a minimum of three separate professional development activities for others, where each activity is about a different issue, case, patient or clinical procedure

**Knowledge evidence**

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

* clinical communication frameworks

check back/read back and closed-loop communication

Identify, Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation (ISBAR)

Setting, Perception, Invitation, Knowledge, Emotion/Empathy, Summarise/Strategy (SPIKES)

* information and research sources for veterinary nursing
* characteristics, limitations and appropriate use of different types of clinical information and research in improving practice standards

roles and responsibilities of intra and inter-veterinary services including:

specialist veterinarians

physiotherapists, pathologists, radiographers

emergency/critical care teams

referring or consulting professionals

external laboratories

veterinary products and services providers

animal insurance company representative

medication or specialist surgical equipment industry representatives

* workplace policies, guidelines, protocols and procedures
* legal and ethical frameworks relevant to veterinary communication, confidentiality, documentation and professional conduct
* veterinary terminology and abbreviations used in case notes, diagnostics, medication administration, patient monitoring and clinical reporting
* principles and strategies for developing and facilitating professional development activities

**Assessment conditions**

Assessment must ensure access to:

* a minimum of three different clients
* a range of veterinary health care professionals or inter-veterinary services
* range of veterinary scholarly articles, industry publications and reports, conference proceedings or industry body position statements and procedures
* internet and technology devices
* organisational policies and procedures and current legislation, regulations or codes of practice

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** |
| ACMVET5X19 Enhance professional practice in veterinary nursing | ACMVET508 Support veterinary practice communication and professional development | Not equivalent | PCs and elements replaced by knowledge, skills and application as per ASK template.  Title change from ‘communication and professional development’ to ‘enhance professional practice’ to reflect broader professional practice focus with less administrative and more clinical orientation.  Application wording changed to reflect the actual application of the unit from ‘managing practice communication and staff development’ to using communication for more advanced clinical interaction.  Content has been reframed from supporting communication and professional development in general practice to enhancing professional practice in veterinary nursing across a broad range of clinical contexts,  Remove admission and discharge in E1 and 3 as covered in ACMVET4X08 Conduct animal care discussions with clients.  Licensing, legislative and regulatory requirement statement removed, as unit is not specific to undertaking actual nursing work.  Skills and knowledge strengthened to align with advanced clinical nursing, rather than administrative processes.  Removed mandatory work placement requirement and specified number of hours. |

### Overview information

#### Modification History

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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.