## ACMVET5X22 Carry out post-operative nursing routines

#### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to carry out post-operative veterinary nursing routines and discharge patients that have undergone specialised surgical procedures into the care of clients.

Specialised surgical procedures may be invasive, technically complex or high-risk and are surgeries which typically exceed the scope of routine or common surgical interventions performed in general practice.

Graduates of this unit will apply post-operative nursing routines such as applying physical therapy, nursing recumbent patients, managing assisted feeding mechanisms, monitoring wounds and surgical sites and communicating home care nursing requirements to clients.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work in veterinary practices where specialised or more advanced surgical procedures are performed, under the supervision of a registered veterinarian. It is designed for veterinary nurses typically with significant industry experience who provide advanced nursing skills and post-operative support and exercise autonomy and judgement within the limits of their legal scope of practice.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to the permitted scope of veterinary nursing practice and vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users of this unit must confirm current requirements with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

#### Pre-requisite unit

Nil

#### Unit sector

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Elements** *Elements describe the essential outcomes.* | **Performance criteria**  *Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.* |
| 1. Monitor patients post-operatively | 1.1 Discuss all aspects of post-operative patient care with surgeon and prepare and implement a nursing care plan, including pain management techniques  1.2 Record vital signs, observations and report abnormalities  1.3 Comply with work, health and safety (WHS) and infection prevention and control (IPC) legislative requirements and organisational policies and procedures, and apply principles of animal welfare in provision of nursing care  1.4 Apply recognised physical therapy techniques according to patient needs  1.5 Recognise, respond to and assist with post-operative emergencies  1.6 Oversee the cleaning, disinfection, sterilisation, disposal and maintenance of nursing instruments, equipment and materials in accordance with IPC and environmental procedures  1.7 Complete all relevant documentation in consultation with surgeon |
| 2. Maintain patient fluid requirements | 2.1 Aseptically place and maintain intravenous catheters  2.2 Maintain intravenous fluid therapy, under supervision of veterinary surgeon  2.3 Monitor patient fluid output |
| 3. Maintain patient nutritional requirements | 3.1 Meet specific nutritional requirements for individual patient needs  3.2 Calculate energy requirements according to patient needs  3.3 Carry out assisted feeding procedures |
| 4. Monitor wound or surgical site post-operatively | 4.1 Select and apply appropriate post-operative dressings and bandages  4.2 Manage active and passive surgical drains  4.3 Manage open wounds post-operatively |
| 5. Monitor recumbent patients post-operatively | 5.1 Select housing and bedding appropriate to specific patient needs  5.2 Use nursing techniques to prevent and treat complications associated with recumbent patients  5.3 Use positioning aids and techniques appropriate to surgical procedure, disease process and individual patient needs |
| 6. Discharge patients into the care of clients with veterinarian’s instructions | 6.1 Communicate specific home care nursing requirements to client  6.2 Communicate instructions on patient’s physiotherapy and exercise requirements to client as required  6.3 Organise follow up appointments as required |

#### Foundation skills

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

**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:

* carried out post-operative nursing routines for at least three patients, covering a minimum of two species, and where the nursing routines collectively include:

implementing a minimum of two nutritional plans

maintaining and monitoring a minimum of two fluid therapy plans and intravenous catheter sites

carrying out assisted feeding procedures at least once, including managing enteral feeding via feeding tubes and performing maintenance of tubes

monitoring and maintaining indwelling urinary catheters at least once, including calculating urinary output reporting abnormalities to surgeon

performing peritoneal lavage using an indwelling drain at least once

* applied physical therapy techniques to post-surgical patients including at least three of the following:

cryotherapy

thermotherapy

massage

active and passive exercises

assisted mobility

* applied and monitored a minimum of two different wound dressings or bandages
* monitored at least one active and one passive drain
* monitored and managed at least one open wound that included the individual having:

applied moist wound healing principles

wound bed preparation

lavage and debridement

* managed at least two recumbent patients post-operatively.

Performance must be demonstrated in a veterinary hospital or specialist veterinary practice or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary practice or veterinary hospital where specialised surgical 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:

* animal anatomy and physiology as it relates to post-operative surgical nursing procedures
* pain management techniques for post-operative recovery
* principles of animal welfare and ethics related to surgical procedures and post-operative recovery
* indicators of post-operative emergencies
* state or territory legislation and regulations relating to post-operative nursing routines, including:

practice of veterinary science/medicine and nurses’ legal scope of practice

use of therapeutic and controlled substances

* nursing care plan design and models
* principles of, and procedures for fluid therapy, including:

intravenous catheter placement techniques

catheter maintenance procedures

fluid types

calculation of fluid plans

additives to fluids

* nutritional requirements after specialised surgical procedures, including:

formulas for calculation of energy requirements and conversion into volume of food product

appropriate nutrition for various disease states and surgical recovery

requirements for assisted feeding

* enteral feeding tube placement techniques and maintenance procedures

nasogastric (NG)

oesophageal

orogastric

* physical therapy techniques, including:

cryotherapy

thermotherapy

massage

active and passive exercises

assisted mobility strategies

* bandages, their use and bandaging techniques, including:

abdominal bandage

thoracic bandage

head bandage

ear bandage

Velpeau

Ehmer sling

* wound dressings
* active and passive drain maintenance procedures
* open wound management strategies, including:

physiology of wound healing

moist wound healing principles

wound bed preparation

lavage and debridement techniques

signs of wound breakdown and complications

* recumbent patient care, including:

bladder management

bedding and positioning aids

patient positioning and turning

urine scald preventative measures and treatment

decubital ulcer preventative measures and treatment

body temperature monitoring

respiratory care including postural drainage, coupáge and nebulisation techniques

patient hygiene and grooming

patient mental health care

* workplace hygiene standards, cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising agents, safe and hygienic cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials
* sources of information and providers of physical therapy techniques and procedures for post-operative recovery
* home care requirements and potential problems with home nursing of post-operative patients.

**Assessment conditions**

Skills must be demonstrated in a veterinary hospital or specialist veterinary practice or an environment that accurately reflects a veterinary hospital or practice where nursing of patients following specialised surgical procedures is carried out on real animals.

Assessment must ensure access to:

* a range of real patients requiring post-operative nursing
* equipment, instruments, resources and materials, typically available in a practice where specialised surgery is performed and specialised equipment used for post-operative care.

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

#### Unit mapping information

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code and title current version** | **Code and title previous version** | **Equivalence status** | **Comments** |
| ACMVET5X22 Carry out post-operative nursing routines | ACMVET502 Carry out post-operative nursing routines | Equivalent | X  Changes to wording of Application to provide more definition regarding specialised surgical procedures and remove requirement for supervision by MANZCVS.  E1 delete ‘under supervision of veterinary surgeon’ (same re E4) as unit application clearly specifies work is under veterinary supervision.  Delete PC1.2 – knowledge evidence  Grammatical change to (new) PC1.2  Split PC1.4 to (new) PCs1.1 and 1.3  Wording of (new) PC1.6 changed to broaden ‘cleaning’ to include disinfecting, sterilising and disposing of nursing materials  PE: minor wording changes  Increase maintaining and monitoring fluid therapy plan and IV catheter site from one to at least two patients  Remove specified number of workplace hours, whilst retaining requirement for performance to be demonstrated in a workplace.  KE: minor wording changes and resequencing of required knowledge  Change ‘calculation of energy requirements using the correct formula’ to ‘formulas for calculation of energy requirements and conversion into volume of food product’ as no single ‘correct formula’  ‘workplace hygiene standards, disinfectants and sterilisation, cleaning agents, cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials related to post-operative routines’ reworded to ‘workplace hygiene standards, cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising agents, safe and hygienic cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment and materials’ |

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