## ACMVET5X26 Coordinate veterinary practice emergency preparedness

#### Application

This unit describes the knowledge and skills necessary to coordinate and prepare veterinary personnel and resources to maintain a state of preparedness for responding to animal health and wellbeing emergencies.

It is designed for veterinary nurses who work in emergency hospitals or referral/specialist veterinary practices where a range of emergency and critical care procedures are performed by registered or specialist veterinarians.

Graduates of this unit apply specialised knowledge of emergency and critical-care procedures, equipment and resources and personnel roles and skill requirements for practice preparedness to ensure that the practice can rapidly and safely respond to a wide range of emergency presentations where personnel operate under the supervision and direction of a veterinarian.

They work with a high degree of autonomy and exercise judgement in coordinating emergency readiness activities, including maintaining emergency stations, conducting practice drills, preparing practice staff for their roles in emergency response, and assisting with the development or review of emergency and critical-care policies and protocols.

**Licensing, legislative, regulatory requirements**

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

#### 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 maintain practice readiness to respond to a veterinary emergency | 1.1 Prepare the practice environment for a broad range of animal emergency scenarios  1.2 Provide the critical care team with policies and procedures for responding to animal emergencies  1.3 Prepare and deliver in-house training sessions for practice personnel  1.4 Coordinate critical care team practice drills and test equipment viability and personnel performance |
| 2. Assist with the preparation or review of emergency and critical care protocols | 2.1 Conduct assessment of emergency and critical care operating procedures for compliance with work health and safety (WHS) and veterinary practice legislation and infection prevention and control (IPC) and animal welfare requirements  2. 2 Record outcomes of assessment including noncompliance, risks and opportunities for improvement  2.3 Assist with the development and/or review and improvement of policies and procedures for critical care and emergency response in consultation with the veterinarian |

#### Foundation skills *(optional)*

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

* organised and prepared resources and equipment for emergency and critical care procedures, including for each of the following:

a trauma

at least two surgical procedures, including thoracic and abdominal

a blood transfusion

a cardiac or respiratory arrest

multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS)

* prepared veterinary practice staff for a veterinary emergency response on a minimum of one occasion
* developed, or reviewed and improved, at least one emergency or critical care policy and/or procedure.

**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:

* emergency and critical care procedures, including:

medical emergencies

surgical procedures (thoracic and abdominal)

haematological diseases requiring blood transfusions

systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS)

sepsis

multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS)

cardiac and respiratory arrest

trauma

* equipment, instruments and resources required to perform critical care procedures or processes, including for:

toxin recognition

management of topical and ingested toxins

emergency situations that may result from specific clinical conditions

* requirements for practice personnel mental and physical preparedness for emergencies including:

protocols for safely conducting simulations and drills in a clinical environment, including risk minimisation for staff, animals and equipment

* identification and purpose of equipment and resources required in an emergency station, including:

antidotes, antivenoms and antitoxoids

blood products including individual components

cardiopulmonary resuscitation equipment

intravenous fluids including crystalloids and colloids

crash carts

vital sign monitors

respiratory resuscitation equipment

restraints (physical and chemical)

emergency procedure wall charts

* procedures for maintaining equipment readiness, restocking emergency stations and checking equipment condition
* state or territory legislation and regulations relating to the practice of veterinary science, WHS and animal welfare in emergency response environments
* basic principles and techniques for planning, structuring and delivering in-house training, including:

defining learning objectives

preparing content

selecting training methods

organising training materials.

**Assessment conditions**

Skills must be demonstrated in a veterinarian environment where emergency or critical care patients are routinely managed or an environment that accurately represents a real veterinary practice where emergency patients are received.

Assessment must ensure access to:

* equipment, instruments and resources typically available in a veterinary practice where emergency patients are received
* practice policies and procedures for emergencies
* current veterinary practice legislation and regulations relevant to administration of emergency or critical care practices including administration of drugs and poisons and legal scope of practice for veterinary practice personnel
* practice personnel

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** |
| ACMVET5X26 Coordinate veterinary practice emergency preparedness | ACMVET505 Prepare for veterinary emergency response | Equivalent | Changes to wording of Application  Remove legislative and regulatory statement – focus of unit is on coordinating equipment and resources for emergencies, not actually performing nursing activities or using equipment or resources.  E1 change wording from ‘Prepare for emergency response’ to ‘Prepare for and maintain practice readiness to respond to a veterinary emergency’  PC re-ordered  PC1.1 split to (new) PC1.4 re ‘testing equipment viability and personnel performance’ in the context of a practice drill  1.2 add ‘and procedures’  (new) 1.4 changed from ‘provide’ to ‘coordinate’  Deleted PC1.5  PC2.1 merged with PC2.3  (new) PC2.1 reworded to align with element and unit outcome  New PC2.2 including rewording of ‘record a performance appraisal’ split from 2.1  PE: change PE to ‘developed, or reviewed and improved, at least one [ ] procedure’ from ‘developed one [ ] protocol’  Removed requirement for performance to be demonstrated in a veterinary practice in a specified number of hours, to enable unit to be demonstrated through simulation.  Minor wording changes to KE for clarification  Added KE of basic training methods as PC require training personnel in processes. |

### 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.