

ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care

DESCRIPTION

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for entry level and support roles in the animal care and management industry, where workers provide care for animals in workplaces such as animal shelters, boarding/day care facilities, sanctuaries and veterinary clinics. The work activities are routine, performed under supervision and within clearly defined guidelines.

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

ELIGIBILITY/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy (LLND) evaluation helps identify any areas where you may need additional support to help you achieve your goals.

To gain entry into ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care candidates require:

- Candidates must organise *prior* to commencement, work placement in an animal care facility. This can include volunteer or paid work.
- Complete placement in an animal care facility for 20 days over their studies**

To be prepared for this course, it is recommended that you have:

- Basic knowledge and a passion for animals and their welfare
- The ability to lift and restrain animals
- The ability to follow basic written instructions and complete tasks safely with supervision
- Access to the internet and a computer or personal device
- Appropriate clothing, which may include covered non-slip shoes, long sleeve shirts and pants for your placement

**** If you do not meet this requirement, contact the CDU delivery team/lecturer to discuss your options.**

DELIVERY DETAILS

Location(s)	Katherine, Casuarina
Duration*	6 - 12 months full time 12 - 18 months part time
Study mode ^^	Workplace assessment
Dates ^	A specific commencement date will be determined in consultation with the delivery team.
Attendance ^	Attendance is by arrangement with the delivery team.

* Duration may vary depending on how long a student takes to reach the required competency level.

^ Course timetable will be provided on application for the course.

^^ Information relating to study modes can be found in the 2026 TAFE Student Guide

FEES

Fee Type	2026 Course Fees
Fee Free TAFE*	Free
Full Fee	\$5,803.50 - \$6,360.00

*This course is part of the Fee Free TAFE initiative. Fee Free TAFE and vocational education and training is a joint initiative of the Northern Territory Government and Australian Governments providing tuition-free training places to students wanting to train, retain or upskill.

Fees shown are indicative and subject to change annually. Actual course fees may vary depending on the units chosen. For International non-student visa-holders; study eligibility needs to be verified before enrolment. Fees may vary depending on the visa type. The course fee rates will vary for commercial contract arrangements.

For further clarification and information on fees, fee exemptions, payment options, instalment plans, and refunds, contact CDU on 1800 061 963 or refer to [TAFE Fees and Payments](#)

ASSESSMENT

Skills and knowledge assessments are an essential step in progressing through your course. You may be assessed in a number of ways including written assessment, questioning, portfolios, work samples, direct observation, practical assessments and third-party feedback.

Throughout your course you will receive information about assessments including how, when and where assessments will be conducted.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

RPL is a process that determines whether the skills, knowledge and experience you've gained through your previous study, work or life experience can count towards a vocational training qualification at CDU. For more information, [VET RPL](#).

CREDIT TRANSFER (CT)

Charles Darwin University as a Registered Training Organisation recognises the Australian Qualifications Framework qualifications and Statement of Attainments issued by any other Australian Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Students are encouraged to submit any requests for credit from previous studies at the time of enrolment, to ensure they are not enrolling in units they may not need to undertake.

RESOURCES

Students will have 24/7 access to assessments and learning resources on Learnline, CDU's online learning platform. Before you can start using Learnline, you'll need to make sure that your computer has the correct setup. For more details: <https://www.cdu.edu.au/current-students/services/learnline>

For the course ACM20121, it is a requirement to use the BSAVA Textbook of Veterinary Nursing 6th Edition for the duration of the studies. This can be obtained online or by arrangement with CDU. These

textbooks provide the underpinning knowledge required for the units of competency. This course will also require access to the internet and a suitable device.

STUDY AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Further training pathways from this qualification include but are not limited to ACM40418 Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing.

Possible occupations relevant to this qualification include:

- Dog groomer assistance
- Animal care or pet shop attendant
- Animal shelter attendant
- Kennel hand or cattery attendant
- Veterinary assistant

QUALIFICATION CONTENT

To achieve ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care, a total of twelve (12) units of competency must be completed comprising seven (7) and five (5) elective units as detailed in the packaging rules and listed below. The electives offered may vary between campuses.

CORE UNITS

ACMGEN201	Work in the animal care industry
ACMGEN202	Complete animal care hygiene routines
ACMGEN203	Feed and water animals
ACMGEN204	Assist in health care of animals
ACMSUS201	Participate in environmentally sustainable work practices
ACMWHS201	Participate in workplace health and safety processes
BSBCMM211	Apply communication skills

ELECTIVE UNITS (*Select 5*)

HLTAID011	Provide First Aid (<i>credit transfer only</i>)
ACMINF201	Handle companion animals safely and follow infection control guidelines
ACMGEN205	Source and provide information for animal care needs
ACMSPE316	Provide general care of domestic dogs
ACMSPE317	Provide general care of domestic cats
ACMEQU214	Prepare to work safely around horses

WITHDRAWING FROM A QUALIFICATION

You may withdraw from this qualification and receive, where relevant, a Statement of Attainment for all units of competency you have successfully completed.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The University provides support for students in many areas, including Accommodation, Careers and Employability, Counselling, Disability Services, Financial Support Services, Student Advocacy, Indigenous Tutorial Support Services, International Student Support Services, Library Services, and VET Learner Support Services.

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More information is available at [Student Support - Life, Health and Wellbeing](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

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For further information regarding student life at CDU, please refer to <https://www.cdu.edu.au/study/student-life>.