



ASSESSOR GUIDE

ACMGEN309

Provide basic animal first aid

Assessment 1 of 2

Short answer questions



Assessment Instructions

Task overview

This assessment task includes 21 short answer questions. Read each question carefully before typing your response in the space provided.

This unit of competency consists of one (1) knowledge assessment, completed in this module, in addition to the Structured Workplace Learning and Assessment (SWLA) completed in Module 14. You must complete both sets of assessments related to this unit to be deemed competent.



Assessment Information

Submission

You are entitled to three (3) attempts to complete this assessment satisfactorily. Incomplete assessments will not be marked and will count as one of your three attempts.

All questions must be responded to correctly to be assessed as satisfactory for this assessment.

Answers must be typed into the space provided and submitted electronically via the LMS. Hand-written assessments will not be accepted unless previously arranged with your assessor.



Reasonable adjustment

Students may request a reasonable adjustment for assessment tasks.

Reasonable adjustment usually involves varying:

- the processes for conducting the assessment (e.g. allowing additional time)
- the evidence gathering techniques (e.g. oral rather than written questioning, use of a scribe, modifications to equipment)

However, the evidence collected must allow the student to demonstrate all requirements of the unit.

Refer to the Student Handbook or contact your Trainer for further information.



Please consider the environment before printing this assessment.

The following scenario relates to Questions 1 and 2:

You are required to attend a scene where an animal has been hit by a car. On arrival you see five people standing on the side of a busy road and there is an adult Brushtail Possum in the middle of the road. It appears confused and has some obvious wounds. You will need to walk onto the road to capture and transport the possum.

Question 1

- a) Identify two (2) hazards that this scenario poses to **yourself** as the rescuer or to the **bystanders** when capturing and transporting the possum.
- b) Identify two (2) hazards this scenario poses to the **possum** during its capture and transport.

(Approximate word count: 2-20 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must list options for both a) and b).

- a) Accept any two (2) of the following:
 - Bites or scratches by possum
 - Possible zoonoses
 - Hit by car when on road - yourself and bystanders
- b) Accept any two (2) of the following:
 - Hit by car
 - Further pain/injury caused during rescuing process
 - Overheating or hypothermia during transportation
 - Additional stress during transportation

Question 2

You now need to catch, secure and transport the possum from Question 1 safely and humanely.

- a) Identify one (1) piece of equipment for **capturing/securing** the possum.
- b) Identify one (1) piece of equipment for **transportation** of the possum.

(Approximate word count: 2-20 words)

Assessor instructions: Accept one (1) of the following for both a) and b).

- a) Capturing/securing: Towel, cat gloves, thick gloves or blanket
- b) Transportation: A cat carrier or a sturdy box with holes for airflow

The following scenario relates to Questions 3 and 4:

There is an injured puppy on the right side of the road that is thin and sickly-looking. As you are preparing to assess the puppy, the mother dog comes running up the road. She appears to be stressed, unsure of the people around her and very frightened.

Question 3

Identify one (1) risk to the mother dog in this scenario.

(Approximate word count: 5-15 words)

Assessor instructions: Accept one (1) of the following. The student may use different wording to describe the risk. Provided answer needs to reflect the characteristics described in the exemplar answers.

- The mother dog being hit by a car and causing injuries
- The mother dog's anxiety levels heightening

Question 4

The mother dog from Question 3 appears uninjured and in reasonably good health. She appears to be approximately 42 kg in weight.

- Identify two (2) different forms of **restraint devices** that could be used in this scenario to capture and transport the mother dog.
- Identify two (2) **PPE** items that you could use to protect yourself and briefly describe **how they provide you with protection** in this scenario.

(Approximate word count: 15-40 words)

Assessor instructions: Accept any two (2) of the following for both a) and b). The wording of responses may vary from the sample answer.

a) Animal restraint devices to capture and transport the mother dog:

- Collars
- Harnesses
- Leads

b) PPE and how it provides protection:

- Gloves – protection from pathogens
- Gloves (animal handling gauntlets) – protection from bites and scratches
- Boots – protection from the road
- Sun or wet weather protection – protection from heat or cold, for example, hat or raincoat
- Fluro vest – provides high visibility to surrounding traffic, reducing the risk of an accident

Question 5

A cat presents at a veterinary clinic with cat fight injuries. The cat is very stressed and hissing in the cage.

List three (3) ways to minimise stress, pain and further injuries when approaching and handling the cat.

(Approximate word count: 6-25 words)

Assessor instructions: Accept any three (3) of the following. The wording of responses may vary from the sample answer.

- Remain calm
- Use slow movements
- Reduce noise
- Use a towel to handle the animal
- Handle the cat gently
- Be aware of where the pain or injuries are and do not touch the animal in that area
- Use pheromones
- Use appropriate cat handling techniques
- Speak in a gentle voice
- Ensure no dogs are in cages nearby
- If barking dogs are present, close doors to minimise noise
- Take your time; do not rush the cat

Question 6

List the seven (7) principles of first aid management.

(Approximate word count: 25-35 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must identify all seven (7) of the following principles of first aid management.

1. Preserve life
2. Prevent deterioration
3. Promote recovery
4. Take immediate action
5. Calm the situation down
6. Call for medical assistance
7. Apply the relevant treatment

Question 7

Determining the health status of an animal prior to applying first aid may be required. Fill in the following table to describe **how you would carry out** each examination on a dog.

Assessor instructions: Accept any of the following. The wording of responses may vary, however, must cover the same techniques as per the sample answers.

Examination	Technique
Respiratory rate (RR) (bpm) (Approximate word count: 20-35 words)	Watch the movement of the chest rise and fall or listen closely and count the number of expirations (breaths out) for a period of 15 seconds and multiply this number by 4.
Capillary refill time (CRT) (Approximate word count: 30-50 words)	Lift the animal's lip. Apply a small amount of pressure with the tip of one finger to the side of the gum. Remove your finger and observe how long it takes for the gum to return to a pink colour.
Pulse rate (bpm) (Approximate word count: 30-40 words)	Place your hand on the inside of the rear leg at mid-thigh and feel for the femoral artery. Count the number of pulses over 15 seconds then multiply by 4 to calculate bpm.
Mucous membranes (MM) colour (Approximate word count: 5-10 words)	Lift the animal's lip. View the colour.

Question 8

You are an animal attendant at a local animal shelter. During the morning dog walk, Georgie the Greyhound ran away from her walker and attacked Toby, a West Highland Terrier. Once the situation was de-escalated you assessed Toby for injuries.

Toby has a large open bleeding wound on his right foreleg and several bleeding puncture wounds on his chest. Toby is shaking, his respiratory rate is increased, and you fear he is in shock.

Describe the processes to **control the bleeding** and **manage shock**.

(Approximate word count: 40 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must describe the processes for **controlling bleeding** and **managing shock**.

The wording of responses may vary from the samples provided but they must reflect the concepts in the sample answers.

- Stop/control bleeding – this involves applying pressure to the wound for at least three minutes. You could apply a tight bandage or material over the wound.
- Minimise impact of shock by keeping animal quiet, warm and away from activity or noise.

Question 9

You work at a doggy day-care centre in Brisbane, Queensland. It is a very hot day. All the dogs have been outside playing. At the end of the play session, you notice that Rodger the 5-year-old, 25 kg British Bulldog, is breathing very heavily. He is laying on his front and drooling a lot.

You assess him and note that Rodger's:

- breathing is noisy and fast
- ears feel extremely hot
- mouth is full of thick saliva
- whole body feels extremely hot.

There are 3 actions you need to implement:

1. Check airway, clear if required
2. Treat the overheating
3. Transport the animal to the vet

Describe the **process** for each of these three (3) actions.

(Approximate word count: 170 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must correctly describe the **process** for the 3 actions. Provided answers need to reflect the characteristics described in the example answers.

Processes for the following actions:

1. Checking the airway, clear if required

- Position yourself on one side of the dog
- Place one hand across the top of the dog's muzzle
- Place thumb and index finger behind canines and gently slide fingers into the mouth
- As the mouth opens use other hand's pointer finger between front incisor teeth, apply pressure to bottom jaw/tongue
- Look inside the mouth as far down the throat as you can
- Use sweeping of pointer and middle fingers across tongue to remove excess salivation
- Check for any other obstructions

2. Treating the overheating

- Remove the dog from the hot environment
- Gradually lower the dog's body temperature using one or more of the following techniques:
 - Submerge in room temperature water
 - Place animal under cool, but not cold running water
 - Place dog in front of a fan or air conditioner
 - Move the dog to a shady area
 - Move the dog to an air-conditioned area
 - Wet the area around the dog which can lower the ambient temperature

3. Transporting the animal to the vet

- Throughout the process, talk calmly and reassuringly to the animal
- Support the head, neck and back by placing one arm under their head and shoulder and the other under their pelvis
- Check the path to the vehicle is clear and safe

- Do a two-person lift as the dog is over 15 kg and make sure everyone involved has a clear understanding of their role in the process so you can work together
- Bend your knees and slowly lift the animal by the stretcher
- Place the animal in the vehicle and secure them with seatbelts, towels or clothing to provide padding so they do not move around during transport
- Ensure air conditioning is on or windows are open

The following scenario relates to Questions 10 and 11:

You are working on reception at XYZ Veterinary Clinic. You receive a phone call from Mr. Dean Wilson. His Bull Mastiff, Bob, jumped out of the window of his car while they were driving to the park.

Dean reports that someone managed to get hold of Bob. However, he is scared to move Bob as he cannot walk on his hind left leg and the bone below the knee seems to be bulging. Dean suspects it is broken.

Question 10

Describe to Dean **how** to immobilise the leg.

(Approximate word count: 20-30 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must correctly describe **how** to immobilise the leg. Provided answer needs to reflect the characteristics described in the example answer.

- Firstly, do not pull on the limb.
- Do not try to straighten the limb or the broken bone.
- Attend to any bleeding.
- Position the splint to prevent the animal from bending or moving the joint(s) nearest the injury and secure the splint to the limb with a bandage or strips of cloth (for example, a torn-up shirt).

Question 11

Dean arrives at the clinic and calls you from his car asking for assistance with getting Bob out of his car.

Identify two (2) potential work health and safety issues you should consider when helping Dean lift Bob from the back seat of the four-wheel drive onto the ground.

(Approximate word count: less than 20 words)

Assessor instructions: Student answers may vary, but they must identify 2 things that relate to protocols in the animal workplace regarding work health and safety when manually handling and lifting animals. The following examples are not definitive.

- Manual handling technique, for example, 2-person lift, use of stretcher or trolley
- Bob becoming aggressive
- Other cars

Question 12

List five (5) symptoms an animal may have that indicate a **life-threatening emergency**.

(Approximate word count: 20 - 40 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must provide five (5) symptoms that are considered emergencies. The student may use different wording to describe the symptoms. Provided answers need to reflect the characteristics described in the exemplar answers.

The following symptoms are life-threatening emergencies and require immediate medical attention:

- Snake bite
- Gastric dilation (volvulus)
- Swollen or distended abdomen, with or without vomiting
- Difficulty breathing
- Raspy breathing sounds
- Blue tongue
- Heat stress
- Major blood loss and bleeding that will not stop
- Penetrating wounds
- Male cat not passing urine
- Recently suffered cardiac arrest or respiratory arrest
- Anaphylactic reaction
- Hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar)
- Dystocia - very slow or difficult labour, for example labouring for 2+ hours with no progression or a puppy, kitten, etc., is visibly stuck
- Cane toad toxicity
- Trauma from being hit by a car
- Trauma due to a fall from a height or blunt force, even if the animal is not showing any ill effects
- Collapse or inability to stand or walk
- Burns – fire, hot water, chemicals
- Pyretherin toxicity in cats (e.g., application of topical tick prevention for dogs)
- Loss of consciousness

Question 13

Identify one (1) animal welfare facility in your state/territory.

(Approximate word count: 2-10 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must list one (1) of the following according to their state or territory. Student wording may vary from that provided below.

- RSPCA
- Animal Welfare League
- Local council
- WIRES

Question 14

List two (2) after-hours animal emergency veterinary services in your local area. Include:

- name
- contact number
- physical address
- website address (if available).

(Approximate word count: 5-20 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must identify two (2) veterinary services that offer after-hours emergency care in their local area. They must include name, phone number, physical address and website address (if available). The organisation may be a dedicated emergency centre, or in the case of rural or remote locations, a veterinary service that offers after-hours callouts.

Student correctly identifies two after-hours emergency veterinary services in local area and includes name, phone number, physical address and website if they have one.

The following scenario relates to Questions 15, 16 and 17:

A client calls your animal care workplace. The client owns a cat that has just had boiling water accidentally spilled onto its body.

Question 15

Briefly describe one (1) first aid technique that could be provided to manage the cat's burn.

(Approximate word count: 5-20 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must describe the **how** to manage the cat's burn. Provided answer needs to reflect one (1) of the techniques described in the example answer.

- Apply cool running water to the area for a minimum of 10 minutes, for example by placing the burnt area under a running tap or shower.
- Apply a cool pack or cool wet compress to the area for a minimum of 30 mins. Do not place the cold pack directly on the skin, always wrap it in a clean cloth.
- Immerse the affected areas in room temperature water for a minimum of 10 minutes.

Question 16

The cat that was burned with hot water has now presented at the clinic. What are the five (5) **vital signs** you would assess immediately?

(Approximate word count: 3-10 words)

Assessor instructions: Students must list all five (5) vital signs.

- Temperature
- Heart rate (HR)
- Pulse rate
- Respiratory rate (RR)

- Mucous membranes (MM)

Question 17

The cat has burns to its rump and hind legs. How would you minimise stress, pain and further injuries to the patient when handling it? Remember you are not a veterinarian so you can't prescribe medication or drugs. Provide three (3) suggestions.

(Approximate word count: 10-40 words)

Assessor instructions: Student is to provide three (3) suggestions from the following list. The student may use different wording to describe the advice. Answers provided need to reflect the characteristics described in the exemplar answers.

- Remain calm
- Use low-stress handling such as handling with towels
- Do not scruff
- Keep the cat away from dogs
- Keep the cat away from too much activity or noise
- Be aware of burned area and do not hold the cat where injury is/alter normal restraint method
- Do not pick up with a hand under rump but under belly or scoop up in towel
- Use pheromones such as Feliway
- Transport in carrier
- Keep cool

Question 18

Access and read the following link: [Cat and Dog Tick Paralysis](#), then, identify two (2) pieces of advice you would provide to the owner if they come home to find their cat showing signs of tick paralysis and found a tick near its nose?

(Approximate word count: [60-70] words)

Assessor instructions: Students must identify the two (2) pieces of advice they would provide to the cat owner. The student may use different wording to describe the advice. Provided answers need to reflect the characteristics described in the exemplar answers.

- Remove the tick as quickly as possible with tweezers and place it in a zip-lock bag or container.
- If a tick is removed and no signs of paralysis are seen, keep your pet quiet, calm and at a comfortable temperature and bring to vet who will be able to identify the tick species and may recommend a physical exam to look for subtle signs of paralysis.

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Question 19

According to the article [Cat and Dog Tick Paralysis](#), what are two (2) signs of tick paralysis?

(Approximate word count: 5-25 words)

Assessor instructions: Student's wording may vary but must include at least two (2) of the following signs:

- Wobbliness and lack of muscle control, typically starting with the back legs before spreading to the rest of the body
- Increased breathing rate or effort
- Panting, hacking and retching
- Drooling, regurgitating and vomiting because of weakness in the throat and oesophagus
- Different sounding bark/meow because of weakness in the vocal cords
- In severe cases, breathing muscles become paralysed so the chest may move less and the abdomen move more to try to compensate
- Gums only appear blue or grey as oxygen levels are almost completely depleted but can still be dangerously low while gums are pink

Question 20

Identify each of the following scenarios as an emergency or non-emergency. Type your answers into the table provided.

Assessor instructions: Students must correctly identify the emergencies and non-emergencies.

Scenario	Emergency or non-emergency?
A 7-year-old horse that is kicking its side, rolling and not passing faeces; the owner suspects colic	Emergency
A 3-year-old cat that has been missing for 24 hours and has returned home with a cat fight abscess	Non-emergency
A 2-year-old female dog that has given birth to one puppy 2.5 hours ago and is very agitated and unsettled	Emergency
A 2-month-old guinea pig with hair loss in round patches	Non-emergency
A 6-month-old puppy that was seen licking a cane toad and is now having a seizure	Emergency

Question 21

You work at a local animal shelter, which also has a Wildlife Hospital on campus. Your role is as the Veterinary Receptionist at the Wildlife Hospital. This involves assisting with the assessment of the animals and completing the WIRES animal rescue paperwork.

You arrived at 6.30 am on Friday 19th August 2022 and there is a person waiting at the doors of the hospital. He explains that while riding his bike to work along Sommers Road in Windermere, he saw a baby possum sitting in the gutter outside the petrol station.

You let him in and introduce yourself. He says his name is Joel Peterson and that he has the joey in his jumper pocket. You take the joey from him to assess it.

At first glance, you believe the joey is a Common Brushtail Possum. It is furred and approximately five months old. Although cold and still dependent on her mother, she is in good condition. You can see a few abrasions on her hindlimbs.

You accept care of the surrendered joey and complete the surrendering wildlife hospital form.

Complete the following Wildlife Surrender Form by filling in the empty fields. You will need to generate mock information for any information not provided in the task's scenario.

Assessor instructions: Details entered on form will match the following entries, except for mock phone number.

Wildlife Surrender Form	
Your details	
Title:	Mr
First name:	Joel
Last name:	Peterson
Phone number:	Mock phone number
Rescue location	
Street number:	N/A
Street name:	Sommers Road
Suburb:	Windermere
Postcode:	N/A
Is this your home address?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is this where you found the animal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Any other details	Gutter outside the petrol station
Animal rescue details	
Species/Breed:	Common Brushtail Possum

Please describe the condition of the animal as best you can:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approximately five months old, cold, good condition- Several abrasions on hindlegs
First Aid Provided:	Warmth

Assessment checklist:

Students must have completed all questions within this assessment before submitting. This includes:

1	21 short answer questions to be completed in the spaces provided.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Congratulations you have reached the end of Assessment 1!

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