



ACM20121

CERTIFICATE II

in

Animal Care

RTO 41462



Smart and Skilled

SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIP

Course Details



Duration

2 year (24 months)



Delivery Mode

Blended (online & work placement)



Start Date

Enrol anytime



Fees

Study **free** under NSW Smart and Skilled SBAT program



Recognition

Nationally Recognised Qualification

ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care

is the ideal entry point for anyone wanting to begin a rewarding career with animals. Delivered online with practical training and work placement, this course builds essential animal care and workplace skills while preparing you for roles in shelters, clinics, grooming, and more—or as a pathway to higher study.



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ACM20121 CERTIFICATE II ANIMAL CARE

Course Overview

If you love working with animals and want to start a rewarding career in the animal care industry, the **ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care** is the perfect first step — and in New South Wales, eligible high school students can complete this qualification as a **School-Based Traineeship (SBAT)** with no student fees under NSW Smart and Skilled Government funding.

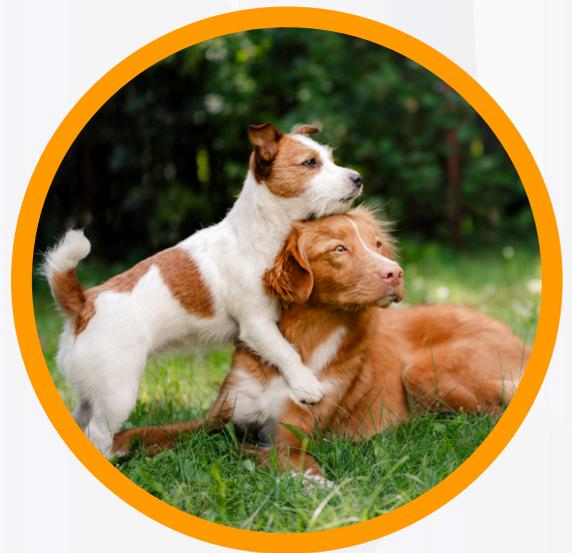
As a school-based trainee, you'll gain real industry experience working one day per week, or the equivalent of **100 days** over a **two (2) year period**, in an approved animal care workplace while continuing your high school studies. This gives you the opportunity to earn and learn — gaining nationally recognised skills that contribute towards your Higher School Certificate (HSC) while building a foundation for your future career.

Delivered mostly online with structured workplace learning, this nationally recognised course develops your knowledge and skills in areas such as daily animal care routines, basic first aid, assisting with animal health care, and following ethical and humane handling practices. You'll also build important employability skills, including communication, teamwork, workplace health and safety, and environmentally sustainable work practices.

Whether you're completing the course as a school-based trainee or through a standard enrolment, this qualification provides the ideal starting point for a career in animal care and can lead to further study, including the **Certificate III in Animal Care Services**, **Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing**, or **Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training**.

Traineeship Eligibility

- ✓ Be enrolled in **Year 10, 11 or 12** at a registered NSW school
- ✓ Be working towards Higher School Certificate (HSC)
- ✓ Have the school's support for the traineeship.
- ✓ Commit to the minimum paid work hours required as part of the traineeship.
- ✓ Parental consent if under 18.



Course 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
- BSBCM211** Apply communication skills
- ACMGEN309** Provide basic animal first aid
- ACMGEN310** Provide reception services for an animal care facility
- ACMGRM201** Bath, dry and brush domestic dogs
- ACMSPE316** Provide general care of domestic dogs
- ACMSPE317** Provide general care of domestic cats
- ACMGEN311** Maintain and monitor animal health and well being



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q How does a school-based traineeship (SBAT) work ?

A School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs) allow high school students (usually in Years 10, 11 or 12) to earn a wage, train towards a nationally recognised qualification and study towards their Higher School Certificate (HSC) at the same time. Use your SBAT to kick-start your career and learn invaluable, real-life workplace skills and hands-on industry experience.

Q Do I get paid as a trainee ?

A Yes, as a school-based trainee, you are entitled to be paid for the work you perform as part of your traineeship. The pay you receive will depend on factors such as the industry, your age, and the level of qualification you are undertaking. The pay rates for school-based trainees are typically based on the relevant modern award or enterprise agreement that covers the industry. It's important to note that the pay rates may vary, so it's recommended to consult with your employer or relevant authorities to understand the specific wage conditions and entitlements applicable to your traineeship.

Q How many hours are required to work ?

A You're required to work a minimum of 7.5 hours per week, averaged over every three months, which equals at least **100 days** across **2 years**. These work hours don't include your study or training time with your training organisation. Your hours can be averaged throughout the year to allow for exam periods, holidays, or illness, and if you wish, you can work extra hours (such as on weekends or during school holidays) by agreement with your employer, parent or guardian, school, and training provider.

Q How does training work ?

A The **National Skills Training Institute** will work with you and your employer to develop a personalised training plan that outlines what you'll learn, when your training will take place, and how it will be delivered. All theory training is completed online, while practical skills are developed and assessed in your workplace under supervision.

Depending on your traineeship and course, you may complete your online theory training during a spare period at school each week, and your practical training in the workplace, with a trainer from the National Skills Training Institute visiting regularly to observe, support, and assess your progress. **Your formal training requirements must be completed by the end of Term 3 of the HSC year.**

Q Do i need to pay any fees for a School based Traineeship ?

A No. If you meet the NSW Government Smart and Skilled eligibility criteria for a school-based traineeship, you won't have to pay any student co-contribution fees — your training is fully funded. This means the cost of your nationally recognised qualification is covered by the government, so you can focus on learning and gaining hands-on experience.

Q What career or study pathways can I take after completing the Certificate II in Animal Care?

A Many students go on to entry-level roles in the animal care industry, such as working in pet shops, grooming salons, animal shelters, boarding kennels, catteries, sanctuaries, or veterinary clinics. This qualification gives you the practical skills and industry experience to start your career in caring for and handling animals.

You can also continue your studies to advance your skills and career opportunities. Popular training pathways include the **ACM30122 Certificate III in Animal Care Services** (Pet Grooming specialisation), the **ACM40322 Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training**, or the **ACM40418 Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing**, depending on your career goals. These higher-level qualifications can lead to specialised roles such as dog groomer, veterinary nurse, animal trainer, or animal welfare officer.