

Completion of Practicum Skills – Important Information

- You must work safely and adhere to all relevant health and safety and animal welfare legislation during completion of these practical skills at your work placement.
- You are expected to demonstrate professional behaviour at all times. This includes being presented in proper attire – your polytechnic shirt or polo top and overalls, clean, appropriate footwear, boots or gumboots, long hair tied back, minimal jewellery, short nails.
- You are responsible for ensuring you are prepared for the work day, e.g. sun hat, water bottle, warm clothing, wet weather gear. Your gear **must be thoroughly clean**.
- All skills involving animals must be completed in a low stress manner, i.e. causing minimal or no distress to the animal.
- You must not administer any medication, or perform a procedure, unless an animal actually requires it, as directed by a veterinarian.
- The evidence you submit for assessment should NEVER be your first attempt.
- Instructions and marking criteria is provided for each skill listed in the Practicum Workbooks. The criteria provides detail of what you need to show or provide in your evidence to pass. It is vital you check that your evidence meets all requirements fully, before uploading it for marking.
- You should practice all skills whenever you can, to gain confidence in your practical abilities. Where the skill involves animals, such as assessment of demeanour and restraint techniques, you should aim to practice these on a variety of animal species, breeds and ages.
- Professionalism and communication skills are assessed via feedback from your supervisor.
- Some skills are also assessed at your Practicum Workshop. A list of these will be provided. These skills should still be practiced in the workplace prior to the Workshop, if the opportunity arises.
- You must start working through the skills as soon as this course is available, so that you do not run out of time to complete them
- We encourage you to submit skills for marking as you complete them, not right before the due dates.
- Animal use needs to be recorded. Follow the instructions and url link for online reporting of animal use for practicing skills and collecting assessment evidence.