

Certificate in Dog First Aid and CPR

Acronym: DFAC

This document will also be used to help stakeholders understand our proposed application.

Concept: The mission of this concept is to reduce canine deaths associated with pre-veterinary care. We aim to bridge the gap between "point of injury" care and Veterinary care, by applying first aid.

Current Position: Currently, I teach Dog First Aid and CPR as an unaccredited course. I have taught well over 1200 students since 2016 when I officially released the course to the public. Before this I was teaching the course in-house to my own dog handlers as I owned a security dog firm. At the time of writing for 2025, I've trained 91, with 114 enrolled in future courses.

As of 2025, Australia is home to approximately 6.3 million pet dogs, with around 4.8 million households—or about 48% of all Australian homes—owning at least one dog. Dog first aid is a massive industry in both the U.S.A and UK, and since covid, the dog owner stats are through the roof. Dog owners love their dogs; they are more than willing to learn how to safely apply first aid to stabilise their dog for transport to a Vet clinic.

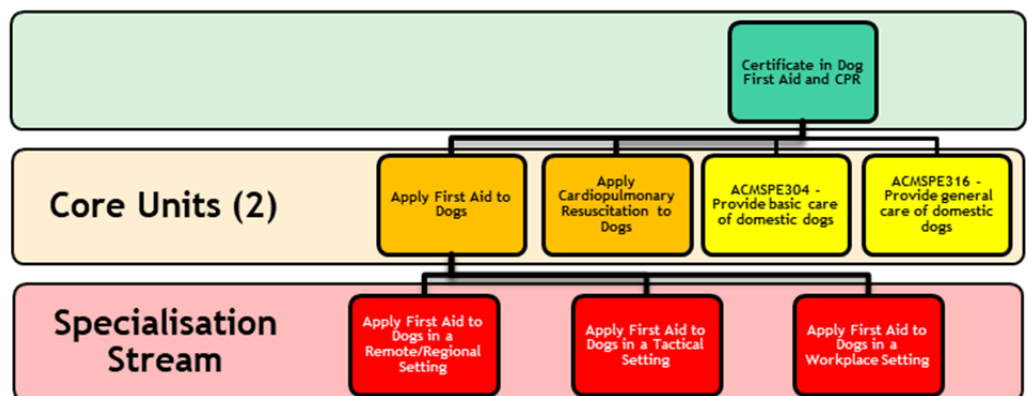
Industry Need: I have also noticed dog first aid within Australia is beginning to take off, and there are no standards in place to teach this subject. We believe that just like Veterinary medicine and Human First Aid, there needs to be standards put in place so that people don't go over their scope. We are currently seeing other providers teaching their students subjects that border on Veterinary medicine, which is outside of the average dog owner's scope. Once a national course is developed, a clear scope can be applied to keep people and training firms within their skills and knowledge.

For example, the application of charcoal, salt or Hydrogen peroxide is taught by a lot of providers without due regard to the risks involved in doing so. Those substances are used in a Veterinary Clinic for toxic substance consumption AFTER a full assessment has been done, and or poison information hotlines have been contacted.

In the age of Google and mass information, particularly overseas information (info like envenomation not pertaining to Australian Animals), correct information for Australian standards, techniques, laws and acts needs to be written, and it starts here.

Definitions: Pre-veterinary – Aid given before being taken to a Veterinary clinic or hospital, or being seen to by a Veterinarian.

This course may also incorporate the ACM unit(s): ACMSPE304 - Provide basic care of domestic dogs, and or ACMSPE316 - Provide general care of domestic dogs, in the final scope, so students may understand a healthy dog.



Apply Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to Dogs

Acronym: DCPR

Unit Description: This unit describes the skills and knowledge needed to identify the need for, and apply CPR to dogs in a pre-veterinary setting.

Workplace Outcome(s): This unit teaches dog owners and handlers how to safely and effectively perform CPR on a dog.

Unit Focus: This unit has a strong focus on prolonging tissue life and transport.

Unit applies to: All dog owners and industry professionals working with dogs.

How the unit is applied: This unit is applied when an owner/handler has assessed that a dog requires CPR. Without this level of care given to the dog, the dog has a less than 1% chance of survival.

Basic Course Structure

Assess the situation and evaluate the need for CPR

Respond to the emergency involving a dog

Apply basic CPR techniques to increase the dog's chance of survival in a pre-veterinary environment

Transport the dog to a Veterinary facility or seek out Veterinary care

Review and evaluate the incident to seek areas of improvement and promote mental health



Apply First Aid to Dogs (DFA)

Acronym: DFA

Unit Description: This unit describes the skills and knowledge needed to identify the need for, and apply First Aid to dogs in a pre-veterinary setting.

Workplace Outcome(s): This unit teaches dog owners and handlers how to safely and effectively perform basic first aid techniques on a dog to stabilise and transport the dog to Veterinary Care.

Unit Focus: This unit has a strong focus on stabilisation and transport.

Unit applies to: All dog owners and industry professionals working with dogs where Veterinary care is within one hour or less.

How the unit is applied: This unit is applied when an owner/handler has assessed that a dog requires First aid. Without aid being applied, the dog's condition may worsen, and could be considered neglected by the owner/handler under various state laws.

Basic Course Structure

Prepare basic first aid supplies for dog first aid

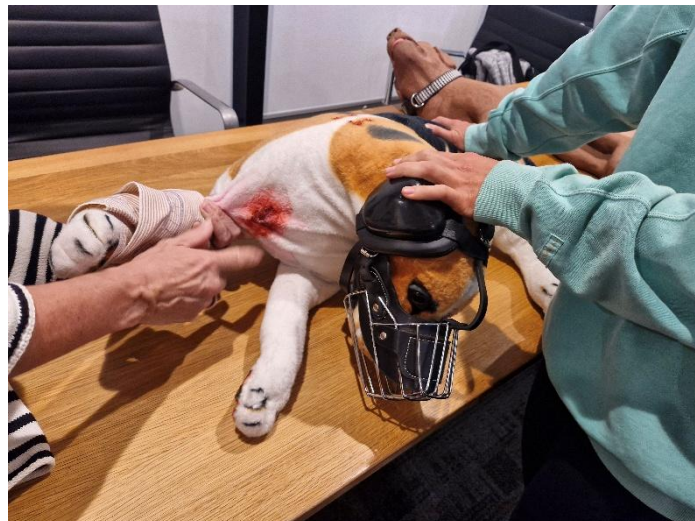
Assess the situation and evaluate response options

Respond to the emergency involving a dog

Apply basic first aid techniques to an injured or sick dog

Transport a sick or injured dog to a Veterinary facility or seek out Veterinary care

Review and evaluate the incident to seek areas of improvement and to promote mental health



Apply First Aid to Dogs in a Remote/Regional Setting

Acronym: DFARS

Unit Description: This unit describes the skills and knowledge needed to plan for, identify the need for, and apply First Aid to dogs in a pre-veterinary setting, within a remote or regional environment.

Workplace Outcome(s): This unit teaches dog handlers how to safely and effectively perform remote first aid techniques on a dog to stabilise and transport the dog to Veterinary Care.

Unit Focus: This unit has a strong focus on stabilisation and transport over a prolonged period.

Unit applies to: All dog owners and industry professionals working with dogs where Veterinary care is greater than one hour away, or where complex or prolonged transport variables exist.

This unit may apply to industry professionals such as Search and Rescue (SAR) dog handlers and conservation dog handlers.

How the unit is applied: This unit is applied when an owner/handler has assessed that a dog requires First aid. Without aid being applied, the dog's condition may worsen, and could be considered neglected by the owner/handler under various state laws.

Other Notes: Covers both core units: *Apply Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to Dogs (DCPR)* and *Apply First Aid to Dogs (DFA)*.

Basic Course Structure

Prepare first aid supplies for dog first aid

Assess the situation and evaluate response options

Respond to the emergency involving a dog in a remote or regional setting

Apply first aid techniques to an injured or sick dog

Transport a sick or injured dog to a Veterinary facility or seek out Veterinary care

Review and evaluate the incident to seek areas of improvement and to promote mental health

Document complete any workplace or other documentation as needed



Apply First Aid to Dogs in a Tactical Setting

Acronym: DFATS

Unit Description: This unit describes the skills and knowledge needed to plan for, identify the need for, and apply First Aid to dogs in a pre-veterinary setting, within a tactical Setting or environment.

Workplace Outcome(s): This unit teaches dog handlers how to safely and effectively perform first aid techniques on a dog to stabilise and transport the dog to Veterinary Care, while maintaining the Safety and Security of the environment and operational needs.

Unit Focus: This unit has a strong focus on the Safety and Security of the environment and operational needs.

Unit applies to: All industry professionals working with dogs in a workplace setting that involves substantial risk to both human and dog life. s

This unit may apply to industry professionals such as: Military Working Dog (MWD) Handlers, Police dog handlers, Corrections dog handlers and Security dog handlers.

How the unit is applied: This unit is applied when an owner/handler has assessed that a dog requires First aid. Without aid being applied, the dog's condition may worsen, and could be considered neglected by the owner/handler under various state laws.

Other Notes: Covers both core units: *Apply Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to Dogs (DCPR)* and *Apply First Aid to Dogs (DFA)*.

Basic Course Structure

Prepare first aid supplies for dog first aid

Assess the situation and evaluate response options

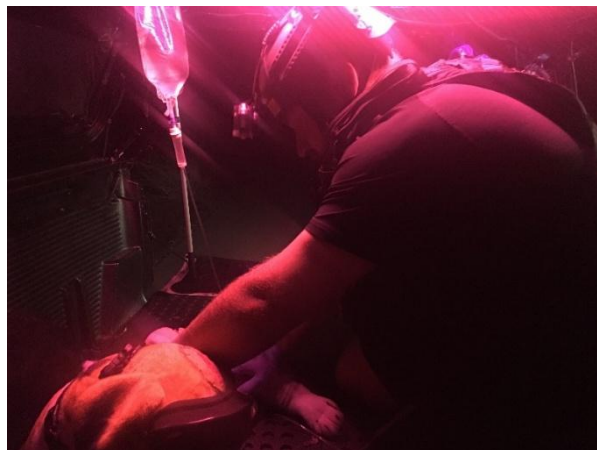
Respond to the emergency involving a dog in a tactical setting

Apply first aid techniques to an injured or sick dog

Transport a sick or injured dog to a Veterinary facility or seek out Veterinary care

Review and evaluate the incident to seek areas of improvement and to promote mental health

Document complete any workplace or other documentation as needed



Apply First Aid to Dogs in a Workplace Setting

Acronym: DFAWS

Unit Description: This unit describes the skills and knowledge needed to plan for, identify the need for, and apply First Aid to dogs in a pre-veterinary setting, within a workplace environment.

Workplace Outcome(s): This unit teaches dog handlers how to safely and effectively perform first aid techniques on a dog to stabilise and transport the dog to Veterinary Care within workplace health and safety guidelines.

Unit Focus: This unit has a strong focus on stabilisation, transport and workplace health and safety.

Unit applies to: All industry professionals working with dogs in a workplace setting, such as dog kennels, groomers, sitters, and day cares, regardless of the Veterinary care access timeframes.

This unit may apply to industry professionals such as: kennel hands, dog groomers, doggy day care staff, dog sitters and walkers.

How the unit is applied: This unit is applied when an owner/handler has assessed that a dog requires First aid. Without aid being applied, the dog's condition may worsen, and could be considered neglected by the owner/handler under various state laws.

Other Notes: Covers both core units: *Apply Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to Dogs (DCPR)* and *Apply First Aid to Dogs (DFA)*.

Basic Course Structure

Prepare first aid supplies for dog first aid

Assess the situation and evaluate response options

Respond to the emergency involving a dog in a workplace setting

Apply first aid techniques to an injured or sick dog

Transport a sick or injured dog to a Veterinary facility or seek out Veterinary care

Review and evaluate the incident to seek areas of improvement and to promote mental health

Document complete any workplace or other documentation as needed



Other training packages are similar, but are not suitable

Unit: ACMVET505 Prepare for veterinary emergency response

Reason/suitability: This unit does cover preparing for emergency response, but it covers it for a clinical environment and not a pre-veterinary environment. And it's intended target group is "veterinary nurses who work in a veterinary hospital or emergency/specialist veterinary practice"

Unit: ACMVET506 Perform emergency procedures to sustain life

Reason/suitability: Another great unit that focuses on emergencies, but again is for a clinical environment and not a pre-veterinary environment. And again, its intended target group is "veterinary nurses who work in a veterinary hospital or emergency/specialist veterinary practice"

Unit: ACMGEN309 Provide basic animal first aid

Reason/suitability: This unit is the closest to what we want to achieve. Its intended audience is spot on: "individuals working in the animal care and management industry". Its content is close to what we want, but it states "The first aider is not expected to deal with complex cases or incidents", so for our specialised streams, it doesn't fit as Tactical environments, for example, are complex situations.

It also looks at preparing, assessing and applying aid, but not post-incident actions, transport and documentation. Another problem is it states: "provided basic first aid for at least two animals with different first aid needs", the unit requires first aid to be taught and applied to varying animals. Our course is breed-specific to dogs.

Unit: RGRPSG302 Assess health and provide first aid for greyhounds

Reason/suitability: This course only covers Greyhounds and the greyhound racing industry. Greyhounds have a long body, which requires different applications of first aid and CPR. A more generalised course is needed to cover all dog body types.

Unit: CSCDOG009 Maintain the health and welfare of dogs

Reason/suitability: This course only looks at providing care for the dog to keep it healthy, and not first aid or CPR

Unit: ACMSPE316 Provide general care of domestic dogs

Reason/suitability: This course only looks at providing care for the dog to keep it healthy, and not first aid or CPR

Other packages/ units

Reason/suitability: Other government courses/qualifications were also investigated, but nothing relating to "dogs" comes up for the police or defence force training packages.