



**Australian Government**

**Assessment Requirements for  
ACMEQD403 Identify potential health  
impacts of equine oral conditions**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for ACMEQD403 Identify potential health impacts of equine oral conditions

## Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0

## Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has examined the dental anatomy and physiology of the equine head on at least six different horses or other equines to identify potential health impacts of oral conditions, including:

- condition scoring to review overall health of each equine
- explaining the process of mastication and nutrient absorption and the impact of poor occlusion or masticatory action on equine health
- assessing how the teeth and related dental structures affect equine health
- identifying evidence of unskilled or inappropriate dental care
- identifying a range of pathology and health issues that could occur due to a lack of dental care or as a result of unskilled or inappropriate dental care
- performing the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during, and contributing to, an overall period of at least 120 hours of work supervised by supervised by an equine dental service provider who is a dental association member and/or a qualified equine dental service provider and/or is currently commercially active in providing equine dental services.

## Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- anatomy and physiology of the equine head and oral structures including:
  - features of the equine mouth and teeth
  - features of correctly formed, healthy and well-maintained equine dental and oral structures
  - normal and abnormal functions including physiology and effect of diet
- terminology:
  - anatomical directional terminology
  - established dental terminology related to equine dental care

- appropriate industry and state/territory equine dental codes of conduct and standards of practice to assist in identifying unskilled or inappropriate dental care
- techniques for condition scoring horses or other equines
- indicators of equine distress, illness, pain and disease
- influence of different diets and husbandries on mastication and oral health
- nutritional requirements and digestive processes of equines
- techniques and instruments used to provide equine dental care
- causes and consequences of equine ailments, infections and injuries relevant to dental care
- potential consequences of the absence of dental care on equine health:
  - untreated pathology, including periodontal disease
  - inability or reluctance to prehend or to masticate effectively
  - poor acceptance of a bit, bridle or head collar or other behavioural problems
  - gastrointestinal tract impaction and/or colic
- potential consequences of unskilled or inappropriate dental techniques and treatments:
  - damage to or severing of nerves or blood vessels, such as palatine artery, including epistaxis
  - lacerated oral tissues, fracture of teeth or of the bones of the skull and mandible
  - pulpitis or pulp necrosis (tooth death) due to pulp exposure, or near exposure, or thermal or mechanical damage
  - absence of referral when appropriate
- techniques and reasons for infection control in the practice of equine dental/oral procedures
- zoonotic and contagious disease symptoms, prophylaxis, work health and safety and biosecurity protocols.

## Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - a workplace or an environment that accurately reflects performance in a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - live horses or other equines assessed as suitable for the skill level of the individual, cadavers or simulations (visual aids and/or anatomical models) with different health or oral conditions
  - appropriate tack, materials and equipment for examining equine dental condition
  - personal protective equipment correctly fitted and applicable to activity for the individual.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the Companion Volume: *User Guide: Safety in Equine Training*.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

## **Links**

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -  
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>