



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour

Release: 1

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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 in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- observed and interpreted horse behaviour and body language of at least three different horses on separate occasions
- identified hazards and determined how to minimise risk to self and others when interacting with horses in at least three different workplace areas, environments or scenarios.

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:

- features of horse instinct and behaviour, including:
 - social organisation, need for space and companions
 - attachment, separation anxiety
 - flight and fear responses, arousal
- features of horse senses, including vision, touch, smell, hearing and vocalisation
- how to read horse body language, including posture and body position, facial features, ears, legs and tail
- how to read horse body language to identify:
 - flight response
 - threatened or defensive behaviour
 - stress, agitation or unsettled behaviour
- situations where horse behaviour may cause harm to handlers or other horses, including:
 - approaching from a horse's blind spot
 - around other horses

- leading through gateways or restricted spaces
- safe handling zones when interacting with horses
- basic features of how horses learn:
 - cues
 - repetition and reward
 - exposure to new situations and activities
- basic handling and/or riding cues that assist in the control of horses
- types of rewards used for horses, including pressure release, food, scratch and rub, and rest
- potential hazards and risks associated with interacting with horses
- strategies to minimise and control common risks associated with interacting with horses.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a safe workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - opportunities to observe and interpret live horses displaying different behavioural states and body language in different environments.

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=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

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