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Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU412 Interpret and address horse behaviour and welfare

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 5.0.

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:

- prepared an ethogram, including body language and facial expressions, for two different horses, including one that is ridden
- developed and documented a behaviour management plan for two horses displaying different variations to normal behaviour using appropriate techniques
- assessed the welfare of the two horses above using a recognised animal welfare framework assessment tool
- communicated information about the behaviour and welfare of the two horses above to a handler and/or rider, driver or client
- documented at least two procedures covering workplace practices that incorporate knowledge of horse behaviour and welfare.

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:

- behavioural needs and patterns of domestic horses, including:
    - handled and unhandled horses
    - herd behaviour
    - individual stabled or yarded horses
    - gender
    - level of education
- horse survival needs, including physical environment and health, interactions with humans, other species
- horse behaviour, including:
    - body language and vocalisations

- evolutionary basis of horse behaviour and its impact on the behavioural needs of horses
    - affective/emotional states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue
    - behaviours and conditions typically linked to strong fight-or-flight response
    - high-risk behaviours (biting, kicking, panicking, extreme flight response)
- concept and formats for documenting an ethogram
- key features of current research in horse behaviour, cognition and learning
- key animal welfare frameworks and application to horses, including Five Freedoms, Five Domains Model, or Quality of Life indicators
- application of research to the management, handling, housing and education of horses
- identification of situations requiring specialist advice on horse behaviour
- effect of the environment, housing, handling, education and management decisions on the behaviour and welfare of horses
- key requirements of codes of practice and legislation relating to:
    - work, health and safety, including safely interacting with horses and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
    - animal welfare, including safe, humane and ethical care of horses, and concept of social licence to operate
    - relevant local government regulations in rural, semi-rural and semi-urban locations.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
    - an equine workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
    - live horses and/or videos of live horses to observe a range of behaviours
    - format or template for documenting an ethogram
    - animal welfare framework assessment tool.

The *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training* provides advice and sample templates to assist assessors with the risk assessments that should be undertaken to help ensure the safety of all involved in the assessment.

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