



**Australian Government**

**ACMEQU415 Relate musculoskeletal  
system to horse conformation and  
movement**

**Release: 1**

## ACMEQU415 Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement

### Modification History

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

### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess and evaluate the physical condition, conformation and movement of horses and/or other equines. It covers the implications of conformation on performance, development of corrective measures and recommendations for horses in relation to their intended purpose.

The unit applies to individuals who have experience working with a range of horses in senior roles within a horse establishment or in a specialist technical equine field. They work autonomously, analyse information, recommend solutions to routine and at times complex problems, and convey information to others.

Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare legislation, regulations and codes of practice relevant to interacting with horses apply to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and jurisdictions.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

### Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

### Unit Sector

Equine (EQU)

### Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Determine structural	1.1 Establish a safe area to observe and examine horses, incorporating

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Performance Criteria</b>
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
features of horse musculoskeletal system	<p>risk assessment and control measures</p> <p>1.2 Observe and assess horse skeletal structure, posture and proportions</p> <p>1.3 Assess size, shape and key features of the head, neck, back and hind quarters</p> <p>1.4 Examine structural features of fore and hind legs, and hooves</p> <p>1.5 Identify desirable and undesirable conformation characteristics</p> <p>1.6 Compare horse conformation to features associated with various work, sport or recreational activities</p>
2. Determine horse muscling and relationship to movement and biomechanics	<p>2.1 Observe horse from different angles and evaluate muscling at key points</p> <p>2.2 Identify location of joints, muscles, tendons and ligaments of significance to movement</p> <p>2.3 Relate basic biomechanics to horse balance and movement when static and in motion</p>
3. Assess horse conformation and movement	<p>3.1 Determine the impact of age on horse growth rates and stages of development</p> <p>3.2 Assess horse conformation and identify structural differences in physical appearance and muscling between conditioned and unconditioned horses</p> <p>3.3 Observe horse movement in different gaits, and identify any irregularities with and without a saddle and/or associated gear</p> <p>3.4 Identify effects of overtraining, exercise and injury on musculoskeletal system</p> <p>3.5 Assess suitability of conformation and anatomy specific to the choice of gear and equipment</p> <p>3.6 Identify where injury or inhibited movement is attributed to gear and equipment</p> <p>3.7 Identify issues where referral to an equine service provider is recommended</p>
4. Determine horse suitability for intended purpose or activity	<p>4.1 Identify intended purpose or activity planned for horse, and assess suitability based on evaluation of conformation, movement and physical condition</p> <p>4.2 Make recommendations to optimise horse condition and</p>

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Performance Criteria</b>
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	movement for intended purpose or activity 4.3 Convey information and recommendations relating to horse conformation, movement and physical condition to relevant personnel

## Foundation Skills

*This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.*

<b>Skill</b>	<b>Description</b>
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret and analyse anatomical diagrams and textual information from a variety of sources</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record observations using print-based and/or digital formats</li> <li>Use objective, industry standard terminology to describe horse conformation and movement</li> </ul>
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain complex anatomical and scientific concepts using language suitable to audience to convey information and requirements</li> <li>Use listening and questioning techniques to confirm understanding</li> </ul>

## Unit Mapping Information

<b>Code and title current version</b>	<b>Code and title previous version</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Equivalence status</b>
ACMEQU415 Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement	ACMEQU403 Relate musculoskeletal structure to horse movement	Redesigned unit merging <i>ACMEQU403 Relate musculoskeletal structure to horse movement</i> , and <i>ACMPHR503 Evaluate performance horse conformation</i>	Not equivalent
ACMEQU415 Relate musculoskeletal system to horse	ACMPHR503 Evaluate performance	Redesigned unit merging <i>ACMEQU403 Relate musculoskeletal structure</i>	Not equivalent

conformation and movement	horse conformation	<i>to horse movement, and ACMPHR503 Evaluate performance horse conformation</i>	
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## Links

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