



Australian Government

ACMEQD404 Conduct equine oral inspection and assessment and plan equine dental treatment

Release: 1

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Modification History

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

Application

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to inspect equine mouths, assess oral health status and plan required routine dental correction or oral care procedures, or initiate referral procedures where corrective equine dental treatment is required.

The unit applies to individuals, who use practical skills and knowledge to identify a range of common equine dental conditions to plan routine equine dental treatment.

Legislative and regulatory requirements, including work health and safety and animal welfare, apply to the scope of work of equine dental service providers, and vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users must check with the relevant regulatory authority before delivery.

NOTE: The terms ‘occupational health and safety’ (OHS) and ‘work health and safety’ (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Prerequisite units of competency for this unit are:

- ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely

Note the following chain of prerequisites that also apply to this unit.

Unit of competency	Prerequisite requirement
ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely	ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour

Unit Sector

Equine Dentistry (EQD)

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. Conduct pre-examination procedures	1.1 Evaluate the equine health, injury and use-previous history records 1.2 Clarify reasons for equine dental appointment and outline more appropriate options to the owner or carer according to workplace practices 1.3 Conduct and document basic assessment of equine condition 1.4 Identify features of head and neck anatomy and assess their general function 1.5 Assess and evaluate the behaviour of the horse or other equine and its response to general handling
2. Prepare to carry out oral and dental examination	2.1 Assess potential risks and safety considerations for horse or other equine and handlers in performing an oral inspection and apply safety protocols and risk controls 2.2 Carry out hygiene and infection controls in preparation for the examination 2.3 Determine the need for sedation to carry out a thorough and complete examination of oral cavity considering work health and safety and animal welfare, safety and comfort 2.4 Check authorisation to obtain and administer medication according to relevant State or Territory legislation or refer case to registered veterinarian if beyond own professional or personal scope or ethical responsibility
3. Conduct oral and dental examination	3.1 Inspect equine head for symmetry, swellings or other abnormalities using safe handling techniques 3.2 Assess the rostro-caudal and lateral excursion range of motion of the mandible 3.3 Inspect and assess incisors for evidence of pathology and occlusion that may impact on speculum use 3.4 Inspect molars and incisors for occlusion 3.5 Fit and remove a speculum according to industry standards

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	3.6 Examine oral structures by palpation and visual inspection 3.7 Inspect and assess all teeth for normal and abnormal features related to position, alignment, wear, and angulations 3.8 Use results of oral and dental examination to decide if referral to a registered veterinarian is needed and explain required actions to owner or carer
4. Provide post-inspection assessment and advice	4.1 Document results of inspection using established terminology and dental charts 4.2 Assess inspection results and explain impact of findings to owner or carer
5. Prioritise dental issues	5.1 Consider dental examination findings in conjunction with the profile and history of the horse or other equine 5.2 Rank and prioritise dental conditions found during examination based on animal welfare considerations including health impact and equine comfort 5.3 Prioritise dental conditions found during examination based on health impact and equine comfort considering also the time required to perform treatment
6. Select dental treatment strategy	6.1 Discuss owner or carer requested or proposed treatments in context of ethical considerations, optimal comfort and dental care for horse or other equine 6.2 Explain significance of dental conditions found during examination to the owner or carer and discuss treatment strategies ranked according to optimal outcomes for the horse or other equine and other relevant considerations 6.3 Plan and document treatment stages and timing for services to be provided within own professional scope 6.4 Explain post treatment care and the need for monitoring the horse or other equine to the owner or carer 6.5 Confirm consent for the treatment strategy with the owner or carer

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.

Skill	Description
Reading	Interpret and consolidate key information in industry recognised charts and records for individual horses or other equines
Writing	Enter data and observations into record keeping systems accurately using industry terminology and dental encoded systems
Numeracy	- Calculate ratios, proportions and volume relevant to mixing liquids and chemicals - Estimate, calculate and record routine measures relating to carrying out equine oral inspections
Oral communication	Provide clear explanations and respond to queries using terminology and concepts appropriate for the audience
Navigate the world of work	- Take responsibility for following work health and safety, safe handling practices, animal welfare and biosecurity requirements, in own role and work area - Know own obligations and limits of professional and personal scope or ethical responsibility
Interact with others	Follow accepted industry practices and protocols for working collaboratively with and reporting to registered veterinarians
Get the work done	- Assemble resources and plan and prioritise daily tasks to achieve outcomes relating to equine oral inspections - Make decisions about routine and non-routine oral conditions and required treatments, taking responsibility for recommended plans and referral action

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQD404 Conduct equine oral inspection and assessment and plan equine dental treatment	ACMEQD404A Conduct equine oral inspection and assessment and plan equine dental treatment	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Minor changes to clarify intent of unit and strengthen safety requirements	No equivalent unit

		Prerequisite added Work placement requirement included	
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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>

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQD404 Conduct equine oral inspection and assessment and plan equine dental treatment

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria in this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has conducted equine oral inspections to prepare and plan routine dental correction or oral care procedures on at least six different horses or other equines, including:

- obtaining history, evaluating and documenting current general condition and behaviour of each equine
- inspecting incisors for evidence of major malocclusions to determine speculum use
- checking and complying with infection control and hygiene protocols and monitoring for update alerts
- notifying or referring appropriate person or government department of potential exotic or zoonotic disease risks
- determining need for sedation and where allowed obtaining and administering medication legally in strict adherence to State or Territory regulatory requirements
- fitting a speculum and inspecting the mouth and teeth for signs of healthy dental and oral status
- identifying and ranking less complex dental conditions that can be addressed by routine dental and oral procedures, using industry recognised charts and records
- discussing options for treatment with mentors, registered veterinarian or other appropriate service providers
- referring owner or carer to a registered veterinarian or other appropriate service provider if the case is beyond current professional and personal scope, legal restriction or ethical responsibility of the dental service provider
- documenting findings using established record keeping and appropriate terminology
- reporting inspection results and impact of findings to owner or carer
- documenting treatment plans, including appropriate treatment procedures and equipment
- explaining treatment plan, post-treatment care and monitoring requirements to owner or carer

- 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 correctly formed, healthy and well-maintained equine dental and oral structures
 - normal and abnormal features and functions
- relevant industry and state or territory equine dental codes of conduct and standards of practice
- relevant state or territory legislation covering the supply, possession and use of restricted and controlled substances
- appropriate terminology used to describe dental conditions, treatment and oral features
- charting systems used to record equine dental information
- common equine dental conditions and diseases
- contagious disease symptoms, prophylaxis and biosecurity protocols
- diagnostic tools used to investigate equine health and dental conditions
- techniques and instruments used to provide equine dental care
- techniques used to restrain equines for dental treatment
- equine ailments and injuries that may impact on dental health
- equine behaviour and other symptoms that may indicate dental problems
- indicators of equine distress, illness and disease
- parameters of treatment which may require referral to a registered veterinarian or other appropriate service provider
- post-dental treatment monitoring and care
- principles and practices of animal welfare
- protocols, legal and ethical considerations when consulting with registered veterinarians and other appropriate service providers
- relevant legislation, regulations and codes of practice for veterinary practice and restricted dental practices
- key requirements of work health and safety regulations and guidelines relating to:
 - risk assessment and control
 - safe handling techniques for catching, handling, controlling and restraining equines
 - safe work practices
 - storage of medicines and chemicals
 - personal protective equipment
- key requirements of biosecurity standards, relevant to:

- hygiene standards - cleaning, disinfection or sterilisation of equipment and materials
- safe waste management and disposal
- equine disease, notifiable diseases and quarantine procedures
- key requirements of animal welfare standards, policies and procedures relevant to the safe, humane and ethical care of equines.

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:
 - various live horses or other equines with a range of oral care needs assessed as suitable for the skill level of the individual
 - appropriate tack, materials and equipment for carrying out an oral inspection
 - personal protective equipment correctly fitted and applicable to tasks for individual
- relationships:
 - interactions with owners or carers of horses or other equines
 - interactions with registered veterinarians.

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

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