



Australian Government

ACMEQU305 Implement a horse health program

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.

Application

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to implement existing health programs for horses. It involves prevention and treatment of illness and injury by implementing program health management strategies, including vaccination, parasite control and hoof and teeth care. The unit also covers treatment of horse illnesses and injuries with advice from professionals if required.

This unit applies to workers who apply technical knowledge and skills with discretion and judgement to care for horses in a range of environments. They work under broad direction, coordinate activities, solve predictable and unpredictable problems and may have responsibility for highly valuable animals.

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

ACMEQU212 Handle horses safely

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. Prepare to implement	1.1 Review equine facility program and records and determine the

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
a health program	procedures and treatments required 1.2 Review individual horse care program and records and determine horse procedures and treatments required 1.3 Schedule resources and horse procedures and treatments required according to workplace program and procedures 1.4 Carry out risk assessment prior to handling horses and implementing health procedures and/or treatments 1.5 Implement personal hygiene and biosecurity practices applicable to administering horse health procedures and/or treatments
2. Implement a vaccination program	2.1 Identify hazards, and assess and control risks related to storing, accessing and administering vaccines for horses 2.2 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) according to workplace safety and biosecurity requirements 2.3 Confirm horse identification and vaccination dose required 2.4 Restrain horse appropriately, and administer vaccine to horse using safe and low stress handling techniques 2.5 Store unused vaccines and dispose of waste products according to manufacturer instructions and workplace procedures 2.6 Update horse vaccination records
3. Implement a parasite control program	3.1 Identify hazards, and assess and control risks related to implementing horse parasite control activities 3.2 Select and fit PPE according to workplace safety and biosecurity requirements 3.3 Examine horse and recognise signs and extent of external and internal parasites 3.4 Select correct treatments for specified parasites, restrain horse appropriately and apply to horse according to manufacturer instructions 3.5 Apply programs to minimise or eliminate parasites in horse environment 3.6 Store leftover products and dispose of waste according to workplace, environmental and biosecurity requirements
4. Implement a hoof care program	4.1 Restrain horse appropriately, and provide routine hoof care for individual horse

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	4.2 Identify and report common hoof diseases and injuries, and provide or arrange treatment according to workplace procedures 4.3 Identify and report common gait and hoof abnormalities, and provide or arrange treatment according to workplace procedures 4.4 Update hoof care records
5. Implement a dental program	5.1 Identify signs of common dental diseases and abnormalities, and report according to workplace procedure 5.2 Arrange dental treatment according to workplace procedures 5.3 Update dental care records
6. Treat horse illness or injury	6.1 Select and fit PPE required for horse handling and treatment 6.2 Confirm horse identification and restrain horse securely using safe and low stress practices 6.3 Restrain horse appropriately, assess illness or injury status and determine action required, including professional advice and/or treatment 6.4 Consult with owner and/or manager in relation to action or treatment required 6.5 Restrain horse appropriately, and apply poultices, dressings and other prescribed treatment to horse using appropriate application tools, methods and safe and low stress practices 6.6 Store unused treatment and dispose of waste products according to manufacturer instructions and environmental requirements 6.7 Clean, disinfect and store equipment used in treating horses according to infection control and workplace requirements 6.8 Monitor horse recovery and update treatment records

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
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Skill	Description
Reading	Interpret information available from horse medical product labels and horse health programs
Writing	Use accurate industry and medical terminology when creating records and reports
Numeracy	Calculate and measure quantity, area, temperature, volume, ratio and percentage

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU305 Implement a horse health program	ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state	Redesigned unit that includes content from <i>ACMPHR302 Maintain health and welfare of performance horses</i> , <i>ACMHBR310 Prevent and treat equine injury and disease</i> , and <i>ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state</i>	Not equivalent
ACMEQU305 Implement a horse health program	ACMHBR310 Prevent and treat equine injury and disease	Redesigned unit that includes content from <i>ACMPHR302 Maintain health and welfare of performance horses</i> , <i>ACMHBR310 Prevent and treat equine injury and disease</i> , and <i>ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state</i>	Not equivalent
ACMEQU305 Implement a horse health program	ACMPHR302 Maintain health and welfare of performance horses	Redesigned unit that includes content from <i>ACMPHR302 Maintain health and welfare of performance horses</i> , <i>ACMHBR310 Prevent and treat equine injury and disease</i> , and <i>ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state</i>	Not equivalent

		<i>healthy state</i> Prerequisite requirements changed Unit sector changed to EQU Major changes to all sections of the unit	
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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 ACMEQU305 Implement a horse health program

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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 implemented a horse health program, including vaccination, parasite control, hoof care, dental check, and illness or injury treatment, across at least three compliant and manageable horses. All health care contact and activities with horses must be carried out using safe and low stress horse handling practices. For each horse, the individual must have:

- conducted a pre-activity hazard identification, and assessed and controlled risks
- selected, checked and correctly fitted appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- applied personal hygiene, biosecurity and infection control practices
- identified restraint method appropriate for horse health treatment
- selected, fitted and applied suitable horse gear to restrain horses during treatments
- checked horse vital signs, including temperature, respiratory rate, capillary refill, hydration status and heart rate
- recognised normal physical and behavioural signs in horses:
 - temperature, pulse and respiration
 - condition score
 - lameness
- accurately updated workplace horse health records.

In addition to the above, the individual must have, for at least one horse:

- safely and effectively applied a restraint to horse
- checked for signs of internal and external parasites
- administered oral drench using appropriate equipment and technique
- used appropriate technique and location to administer an injection according to veterinary instructions (NOTE: This may be performed on a horse replica)
- applied prescribed oral and topical treatments
- externally checked horse teeth and reported health status

- applied treatment bandages to the leg, fetlock and hoof
- checked for common illnesses, injuries and communicable diseases.

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:

- industry terminology for points of horses and basic horse anatomy and physiology
- horse vital sign checks, including temperature, respiratory rate, capillary refill, hydration status and heart rate
- workplace requirements for controlling common horse medications and vaccinations, including:
 - identification, traceability and record-keeping
 - transport, storage and disposal of medicines and vaccines
 - application procedures and practices
- identification of prohibited substances in medications that may affect participation in competitions or breeding
- effects of medications on horses, including:
 - antibiotic resistance
 - contraindications
 - different classes of horse, including stallions and pregnant mares
- features, purpose, effects, reactions and animal welfare considerations of common horse restraints used for when checking and treating horses
- general vaccination requirements for horses, and individual requirements based on exposures
- horse injections, including locations on horses, subcutaneous, in muscle mass and intravenous
- state/territory restrictions on the administration of intravenous injections to horses by a proper responsible agent
- common horse parasites, including:
 - detection, including faecal sampling
 - options for prevention
 - symptoms and life cycles of parasites
 - resistance to treatments
- safe and low stress horse handling and medical treatment practices
- normal dentition and patterns of eruption
- dental disease, mouth conformation and abnormalities
- hoof structure and function
- considerations for routine hoof care checks and treatment, including:
 - seasonal or environmental factors
 - horse workload
- typical gait abnormalities

- indicators of horse lameness
- horse shoes, fit and common problems
- identification and use of basic farriery equipment
- application techniques for medical bandages
- causes, signs and treatment of common horse illnesses, injuries and communicable diseases
- key features of horse quarantine requirements and biosecurity procedures for infection control
- contents and use of items in horse first aid kit
- zoonoses transferred by horses to humans, including Hendra, ringworm and leptospirosis
- when owner or management consent is required prior to treating horses, including consideration of treatment cost, insurance cover and animal welfare
- workplace procedures for recording, storing and reporting information.

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 specified in the performance evidence, assessed as suitable for the assessment of this unit and the individual being assessed
 - administration of injection as specified in the performance evidence may be carried out on a live horse or simulated with a horse replica
 - medications, gear, products, tools and equipment, including PPE required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence
 - reporting and recording forms
- specifications:
 - workplace horse health programs and procedures for the tasks specified in the performance evidence.

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.

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