



Australian Government

ACMEQU306 Provide routine care for horses

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 describes the skills and knowledge required to provide routine care for horses. It involves grooming, basic trimming, rugging, feeding, basic turnout and monitoring horse welfare.

This unit applies to individuals who apply technical knowledge and skills with discretion and judgement to care for horses. They work under broad direction, coordinate activities and solve problems related to horse welfare. Work environments may include stables, small horse enclosures, paddocks and yards.

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. Maintain horse environment	1.1 Determine individual needs of horse and arrange housing to meet needs 1.2 Identify hazards, carry out a risk assessment and take steps to

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	minimise risk to ensure safety of self, horse and others 1.3 Clean stables or small horse enclosures and yards, ensuring bedding or flooring material is replaced and equipment is checked, maintained and stored according to workplace procedures 1.4 Maintain a safe environment and housing for horses according to animal welfare and workplace requirements 1.5 Document and report property and equipment maintenance issues according to workplace requirements
2. Groom a horse	2.1 Identify hazards, and assess and control their risk 2.2 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) required for the task 2.3 Select and prepare required grooming equipment and products according to horse and workplace requirements 2.4 Position, tie up and groom horse using safe and low stress techniques 2.5 Trim horse mane, tail and bridle path according to instructions 2.6 Identify signs of horse illness, injury or abnormal behaviour during grooming, and action as required 2.7 Check horse's hooves and shoes if fitted to horse, clean and dress hooves, and report irregularities 2.8 Select and fit rugs, flyveil and any other protective equipment to horse as required 2.9 Clean, store and maintain grooming tools and PPE
3. Prepare horse for exercise	3.1 Select and prepare horse for exercise according to workplace requirements 3.2 Select correct working gear and check for serviceability and suitability 3.3 Fit working gear to horse safely and adjust where required
4. Complete post-exercise activities	4.1 Cool down, hose, wash and groom horse after exercise according to horse requirements and workplace procedures 4.2 Check horse for signs of lameness, soreness, heat or swelling in legs, cuts and other signs of injury, illness and distress, and report according to workplace procedures 4.3 Remove, clean and check gear before storage, or report

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	maintenance issues
5. Monitor and maintain a horse feeding program	5.1 Maintain and clean food storage areas and water supply, and keep free of contaminants 5.2 Prepare feed and feed supplements according to individual horse feeding plan 5.3 Distribute feed and water, observe horse condition and feeding patterns and report variations 5.4 Seek dietary advice and adjust diet and feeding practices as required 5.5 Monitor feed stock and water and replenish according to workplace procedures 5.6 Monitor feed and water quality, and action or report contamination and other quality issues according to workplace procedures

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 textual information in workplace procedures, forms and work health and safety standards - Interpret key information available from horse food supplement suppliers and horse dietary plans
Writing	Record information accurately using industry terminology
Numeracy	Estimate and calculate quantity, area, volume, temperature, ratio and percentage

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status

ACMEQU306 Provide routine care for horses	ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state	Redesigned unit including content from <i>ACMPHR301 Care for performance horses</i> , and <i>ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state</i>	Not equivalent
ACMEQU306 Provide routine care for horses	ACMPHR301 Care for performance horses	Redesigned unit including content from <i>ACMPHR301 Care for performance horses</i> , and <i>ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state</i> Prerequisite requirements changed Unit sector changed to EQU Major changes to all sections of the unit	Not equivalent

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 ACMEQU306 Provide routine care for horses

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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 safely and efficiently cared for at least three different compliant and manageable horses that have individual needs, over a period of seven days. For each horse, the individual must have:

- identified at least three hazards, and assessed and controlled associated risks
- selected, checked and correctly fitted personal protective equipment (PPE)
- used safe and low stress horse handling techniques
- maintained feed and water quantity and quality, including:
 - inventoried and replenished feed supplies and supplements
 - identified and isolated contaminated feed
 - identified, reported and/or removed sources of contamination
- fed according to individual horse requirements, including:
 - prepared hard feed, mixed feeds and provided supplements
 - ensured feeding bins are suitable and clean
 - monitored feeding and drinking patterns and horse condition, and adjusted feeding plan based on dietary advice
- maintained horse environments, including:
 - cleaned stable or small horse enclosure
 - cleaned feed and water vessels and food handling tools and equipment
- groomed and rugged horse according to horse requirements
- trimmed and tidied horse mane, tail and bridle path according to instructions
- prepared horse for work according to workplace routine, including:
 - selected, fitted and adjusted working gear
 - fitted exercise boots or bandages
 - removed, checked, cleaned and stored working gear
- provided post-exercise care to horse, including:

- cooled down, hosed, washed and groomed
- checked horse condition and responded to any signs of injury, illness and distress
- completed horse feeding and condition records according to workplace requirements.

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:

- key features of workplace health and safety and animal welfare legislation
- risk identification, assessment and minimisation processes
- purpose and types of PPE for horse handling and care tasks
- horse identification processes
- horse housing requirements, including environmental, security, physical, social, emotional and mental
- key features of stable or small horse enclosure and yard design and layout, including regulatory requirements for waste management and disposal
- current horse industry practices for hygiene and basic biosecurity requirements
- workplace routines and scheduling of duties
- type, purpose and maintenance requirements of horse bedding and floor coverings
- procedures for dealing with cast horses
- procedures for cleaning and disinfecting stables or small horse enclosures, and for adding stable bedding or flooring materials
- procedures for cleaning and disinfecting areas and equipment shared by horses, including crushes, floats and vehicles
- typical food and water requirements for horses based on their age, condition, activity levels and weather conditions
- common horse feeds, including:
 - hay
 - chaff
 - grain/pellets or other forms of concentrated feed
 - supplements
 - bran
 - feed appetisers
- horse feed and water storage requirements, including:
 - temperature and humidity
 - contamination control
 - vermin control
 - shelf life and expiration dates
- common horse feeds, additives and medications (natural and manufactured) that may contain substances that prohibit participation in events
- processes for identification, isolation and removal of:
 - contaminated feed

- feed that does not meet quality requirements
- effects of contaminated and poor quality feed on horse health, performance and welfare
- equipment and techniques for:
 - washing horses
 - trimming horse mane, tail and bridle path
 - grooming
- types, fitting and application of horse rugs, rug accessories, flyveils and other protective equipment
- using, fitting, checking, maintaining and storing working gear for horses
- post-exercise horse care
- application and monitoring of horse feeding plans, including:
 - feed types and supplements
 - normal and abnormal eating and drinking behaviours and patterns
 - behaviour during group and individual feeding
 - safe practices for feeding horses in groups
- workplace record-keeping procedures and practices
- zoonoses transferred by horses to humans, including Hendra, ringworm and leptospirosis.

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
 - equipment, tools, materials and supplies required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence, including cleaning stables or small horse enclosures, and feeding, grooming, washing and trimming horses
 - PPE and load carrying equipment
 - feed and supplements for selected performance horses
 - appropriate horse gear for the tasks specified in the performance evidence
 - workplace recording and reporting formats
- specifications:
 - workplace procedures, schedules and specifications 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.

Links

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