



Australian Government

ACMEQU309 Carry out basic hoof care procedures

Release: 1

ACMEQU309 Carry out basic hoof care procedures

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 check horse hooves and shoes and identify issues that affect hoof health and function. It includes the application of simple hoof treatments and removal of loose or damaged horse shoes. This unit does not replace hoof care advice, services and/or treatments that require a farrier and/or veterinarian.

This unit applies to workers who apply technical knowledge and skills with discretion and judgment to care for horses in a range of environments. They work under broad direction, coordinate activities, solve problems and provide information about the health status of horse hooves to farriers and/or veterinarians.

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. Examine horse hooves	1.1 Confirm horse identification and location, and identify hazards and assess and control their risks

	1.2 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) for hoof examination 1.3 Restrain horse using techniques to prevent injury to horse and worker 1.4 Lift horse's feet and check condition of hooves and shoes, using safe and low stress horse handling techniques 1.5 Assess hoof health, injury status and shoe condition, and determine action required, including the need for farrier and veterinary advice and/or treatment
2. Provide hoof care to horse	2.1 Select and prepare basic farriery and hoof care tools, equipment, hoof treatments, bandages and other medications required 2.2 Restrain horse and clean hoof using safe and low stress practices 2.3 Apply hoof care treatment, dressing and medication using appropriate application methods and tools 2.4 Store unused treatment and disposed of waste products according to manufacturer instructions and workplace procedures 2.5 Clean and store equipment used in treating horse hoof 2.6 Monitor horse, maintain treatment records and consult with veterinary if required
3. Perform shoe removal	3.1 Confirm shoe is loose or sprung and needs to be removed to prevent hoof capsule damage, injury or further injury to horse, and it is within scope of responsibility to remove shoe without damaging the hoof 3.2 Prepare basic farriery tools and equipment required 3.3 Check horse restraints and remove loose or sprung shoe, taking care not to damage the hoof, and if required perform trim 3.4 Communicate with owner, farrier and/or veterinarian to arrange shoe replacement and/or treatment required 3.5 Monitor horse and update records according to workplace requirements

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 in hoof care programs and hoof care products
Writing	Use industry terminology to complete hoof care records
Numeracy	Calculate and measure quantity, area, volume, weight, temperature, ratio and percentage
Oral communication	Use industry terminology to describe hoof ailments and injuries

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU309 Carry out basic hoof care procedures	ACMHBR302 Carry out basic hoof care procedures	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 ACMEQU309 Carry out basic hoof care procedures

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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 carried out basic hoof care procedures on at least three different live, compliant and manageable horses. For each horse, the individual must have picked up a front and hind leg and demonstrated use of nippers and rasp to perform a light trim of the hooves.

For at least one live horse, the individual must have:

- applied a poultice to a hoof
- detected a digital pulse.

In addition to the above, the individual must have:

- used a live horse to indicate the location and signs of, and verbally explained first aid treatment for, the following hoof conditions/ailments:
 - laminitis (founder)
 - bruised heel
 - bruised sole and corn
 - hoof abscess
 - hoof crack (toe crack, quarter crack, heel crack)
 - thrush
 - seedy toe bacteria (white line disease)
- observed movement and behaviour of a live horse (or video of a live horse), and identified lameness and its likely location.

All hoof 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:

- identified at least three hazards related to undertaking hoof care, and assessed and controlled associated risks

- selected, checked and correctly fitted appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) required for hoof care
- used safe position and posture when working with horses' hooves
- used appropriate tools and practices to examine and clean horse hooves
- applied a dressing or treatment to all hooves
- accurately updated workplace horse hoof care records.

In addition to the above, the individual must have:

- removed a loose shoe and performed any necessary hoof trim according to workplace procedures or specialist advice (NOTE: This may be performed on a cadaver horse leg)
- provided a brief written or verbal report to a veterinarian or farrier describing a hoof care condition using industry terminology and requesting specialist advice.

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:

- structure and function of the hoof, and associated problems
- common horse behaviour and reactions to hoof care
- signs and first aid treatment of common hoof injuries, ailments and injuries, including:
 - laminitis (founder)
 - bruised heel
 - bruised sole and corn
 - hoof abscess
 - hoof crack (toe crack, quarter crack, heel crack)
 - thrush
 - seedy toe bacteria (white line disease)
- hoof ailments and injuries that require immediate professional advice and/or attendance
- horse shoes, including:
 - fit and common problems
 - signs of hoof growth that indicate need for reshoeing
 - signs of loose, worn and damaged shoes, including sprung shoes
 - hoof injuries and ailments caused by loose, worn and damaged horse shoes
 - techniques for safe removal of loose shoes
- hoof care examination and treatment procedures
- types, purpose, use and maintenance of hoof care tools and equipment, including horse restraints and farriery equipment used for basic hoof care
- common workplace health and safety requirements and practices relating to hoof care, including:
 - hazard identification, risk assessment, risk control and reporting
 - horse behaviour based on horse education and/or soundness of limbs

- types and purpose of PPE
- safe and low stress horse handling and hoof treatment practices
- workplace procedures for recording, storing and reporting horse health 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
 - a video of a live horse may be used for the observation and identification of lameness as specified in the performance evidence
 - cadaver horse legs may be used for the loose shoe removal and any hoof trims specified in the performance evidence
 - medications, gear, materials, tools and equipment, including PPE, required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence
 - workplace recording and reporting forms or systems
- specifications:
 - workplace horse hoof health procedures.

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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