



Australian Government

ACMEQU402 Determine nutritional needs in provision of horse health care

Release: 1

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Modification History

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

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to determine the impact of nutrition on the health and welfare of various classes of horses in providing allied health care to horses.

The unit applies to individuals who have responsibility for providing dietary advice in conjunction with the provision of health care to horses within equine industry sectors.

No licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication, except for the racing industry, where requirements vary between states and territories. Users working in the racing industry are advised to contact the relevant Principal Racing Authority for advice on current requirements.

Work health and safety and animal welfare legislation relevant to interacting with horses applies to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and state/territory jurisdictions. Users are advised to check with the relevant authority for specific requirements.

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

Nil

Unit Sector

Equine (EQU)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
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<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Relate elements of the equine diet to physiological function	1.1 Classify nutrient elements according to the needs of the body 1.2 Identify the structures of the digestive system and describe the nutrient absorption and metabolism process 1.3 Describe features of a well-balanced diet and relate to horse health, condition and workload 1.4 Evaluate the impact of an unbalanced or deficient diet on horse health
2. Evaluate the composition of common horse diets	2.1 Analyse commonly available feed stuffs 2.2 Assess methods of feed stuff preparation regarding impact on nutrient availability 2.3 Evaluate quality of feed stuffs for nutritional and health value
3. Assess factors that may affect horse condition relevant to nutritional requirements	3.1 Classify horses according to a range of criteria, including body condition score, developmental age, class, activity and housing status 3.2 Evaluate options to adjust diet in relation to horse health status 3.3 Refer owner or carer to nutritional or veterinary specialist for specific dietary requirements and ration formulation advice

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 key nutritional information from feed and supplement documentation and horse condition from workplace records
Numeracy	Measure quantities of feed components and supplements accurately
Navigate the world of work	Follow workplace procedures, including safety, biosecurity and animal welfare requirements, and meet expectations relating to own role and area of responsibility

Skill	Description
Interact with others	Consult clearly and precisely with supervisors and equine health care providers
Get the work done	- Use structured problem-solving techniques to resolve nutritional problems using available information and resources - Plan and prioritise daily tasks to achieve outcomes, and adjust activities to deal with contingencies

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU402 Determine nutritional needs in provision of horse health care	ACMEQU402A Determine nutritional needs in provision of horse health care	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages	Equivalent unit

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 ACMEQU402 Determine nutritional needs in provision of horse health care

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual determined the nutritional needs relevant to horse health care for at least three horses with different nutritional needs, including:

- determining condition score of horses and classifying horses according to a range of criteria
- referring owners or carers to veterinarian for specific dietary advice
- using safe and ethical horse handling techniques when handling horses and assessing health care
- making adjustments to individual horse feeding regimes in response to changing conditions and/or signs of problem eating displayed by individual horses
- recording and reporting information on horse nutritional 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 principles of horse nutrition and horse health
- anatomical and physiological structures:
 - features, location and functions related to dietary needs
 - basic process of absorption and metabolism of nutrients
- basic anatomical terminology
- methods used to assess horse condition and general health
- criteria and methods of classifying horses by condition, health, age and housing status
- impact of class, age, workload and housing on diet and nutritional demands of horses
- factors affecting availability of nutrients to horses
- consequences of an unbalanced or nutrient deficient diet to horse function, health and behaviour

- signs and symptoms of an unbalanced or deficient diet in horses
- feed stuffs commonly fed to horses and the general principles of a balanced diet for horses
- use of supplements, additives and prohibited substances
- types of feed contamination, including from rodents, and methods of avoidance
- relevant regulations, codes of practice and workplace procedures for determining nutritional needs in the provision of health care, including:
 - work health and safety and safe work practices
 - animal welfare principles, practices and ethics
 - workplace hygiene (biosecurity) standards.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - horses with different nutritional requirements
 - information about nutritional properties of horse feed stuffs or technology to access the information.

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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