



Australian Government

ACMEQU408 Educate horses to be ridden

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required for starting a horse under saddle and educating it to be ridden. The unit applies to all classes of horses and can be customised for other domestic equids.

The unit applies to individuals with considerable experience and skills in horse handling and riding who have responsibility for educating horses for a range of purposes. They work independently within organisational guidelines, deal with predictable and unpredictable situations, and apply problem-solving skills to achieve outcomes.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory health and safety and animal welfare regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

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 educate a horse to be ridden	1.1 Assess current level of education, health status and behaviour of the horse 1.2 Confirm and document client needs and requirements, and develop

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	education plan for individual horse 1.3 Prepare safe, secure and controlled facilities to conduct each stage of the education program 1.4 Conduct risk assessment, address identified hazards, and control potential risks to safety of handler/s and horse/s 1.5 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment (PPE) 1.6 Determine if the assistance of another handler is required based on risk assessment
2. Mouth the horse	2.1 Select appropriate tack to suit horse, including bit, bridle, saddle cloth and saddle 2.2 Familiarise horse with tack in preparation to mount and ride 2.3 Apply selected tack correctly to ensure comfort and fit 2.4 Mouth the horse and educate to respond to aids and cues
3. Start horse under saddle	3.1 Prepare the horse to be mounted and introduce weight to the horse's back 3.2 Mount the horse and introduce leg pressure, aids and voice cues to influence forward movement, direction, flexion, bend and halt/stop 3.3 Build up time in saddle, emphasising changes in direction and transitions, in a controlled and safe environment 3.4 Recognise and respond appropriately to signs of stress and fatigue in horses undergoing education 3.5 Adjust individual horse's program according to level of fitness 3.6 Untack the horse and cool down at end of sessions and assess health condition
4. Consolidate horse education	4.1 Accustom the horse to be ridden at different paces, emphasising tempo and rhythm, and willingness to respond to cues 4.2 Expose and familiarise the horse to a range of appropriate environments after assessing potential risks to self, others and horse 4.3 Build horse confidence and reinforce education required for intended riding purpose 4.4 Accustom horse to be ridden with other horses in close proximity
5. Apply reward-based horse education	5.1 Apply education techniques consistently to reinforce horse learning

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
methodology	5.2 Recognise and apply positive reinforcement to the horse for progress towards desired behaviours 5.3 Use appropriate techniques to manage behaviour and performance according to current equine learning theory and to ensure wellbeing of the horse 5.4 Assess horse acceptance of education for client's needs, and provide feedback

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
Learning	Actively source current, evidence-based information on equine education and learning theory to determine own education practices
Navigate the world of work	- Take responsibility for complying with regulatory and workplace requirements, including health and safety and animal welfare, within own role and area of work - Follow safe, ethical and humane horse handling industry practices
Interact with others	Work collaboratively and communicate effectively with others to plan programs and report on horse performance and progress
Get the work done	Analyse problems and risks, devise solutions and reflect on approaches taken

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU408 Educate horses to be ridden	Not applicable	New unit	No 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 ACMEQU408 Educate horses to be ridden

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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:

- completed a risk assessment of each horse to be educated
- prepared suitable facilities and environments for each horse's education program and stage
- educated three horses to be ridden, including:
 - in mouthing the horse in groundwork
 - in controlled and open areas
 - in walk, trot and canter; and halt/stop and left/right hand turns
 - individually and in company of other horses
- demonstrated safe horse handling and riding skills and appropriate education techniques to ensure their own and others' safety and the welfare of the horse at all times.

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:

- safe work practices when interacting with horses, including:
 - assessing and controlling risks
 - safe horse handling techniques
 - safe zones around horses
 - duty of care for others
 - use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for activity
- horse wellbeing, including:
 - managing stress, fatigue, heat and injuries
 - overview of animal welfare assessment frameworks, including Five Domains and Five Freedoms models

- equine behaviour, including:
 - body language and vocalisations
 - temperament and characteristics of different breeds and classes of horses
 - affective states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue
 - behaviours typically linked to strong fight or flight response
 - high-risk behaviours to people, including biting, kicking, bucking, striking and rearing
- indicators of horse health status, including body, condition, feet, teeth, injuries and stage of development
- key features of current research on equine cognition, intelligence, ethology and learning abilities relevant to training horses
- methodology or techniques to shape or modify horse behaviour
- facilities and environments used in educating a horse to be ridden, including:
 - controlled areas with appropriate surface – arenas, fenced tracks, round yard, stockyards
 - open areas
- tack and equipment used for riding, including:
 - purpose of items
 - correct fit
 - how to check condition and working order
- key features of horse education plan, including objectives, stages and timeframes
- strategies to assess riding ability level of others and their experience in riding recently educated ('green') horses.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions, including safe controlled and open areas
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a variety of horses – appropriately educated in initial handling skills for the purpose of the education activities in the performance evidence
 - PPE correctly fitted and applicable to activity for the individual
 - appropriate tack and gear for horse
- relationships:
 - assistant handler, if required.

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.

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