



Australian Government

ACMEQU410 Educate pack horses

Release: 1

ACMEQU410 Educate pack horses

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 to educate a horse to carry loads and work with other horses over different terrains and for varying purposes. The unit applies to most classes of horses and can be customised for other equids, including donkeys and mules.

The unit applies to individuals with considerable experience and skills in horse handling and riding who have responsibility for educating pack 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 pack horses	1.1 Assess current level of education, health status, condition and behaviour of the 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>
	1.2 Confirm client needs and requirements and develop education plan for individual horse 1.3 Prepare safe, secure and controlled facilities and environment to conduct each stage of the education program 1.4 Identify 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 of the horse
2. Educate horses to carry loads	2.1 Teach horse to be led alongside a horse being ridden and on foot 2.2 Introduce the horse to a pack saddle and fit correctly 2.3 Introduce and familiarise the horse to loads and low hanging equipment 2.4 Habituate the horse to be in close proximity to other horses in front and to the rear 2.5 Lead the horse, ensuring a safe position and distance, past objects to accustom to loads 2.6 Introduce heavier loads containing different objects, ensuring loads are balanced and secured, appropriate for the size of the horse
3. Consolidate education of pack horses	3.1 Train the pack horse to follow the lead horse 3.2 Repeat exercises in a range of environments to develop horse confidence negotiating different surfaces and obstacles 3.3 Teach the horse to be restrained utilising remote area options 3.4 Recognise and respond appropriately to signs of stress and fatigue in horses undergoing education
4. Apply reward-based horse education methodology	4.1 Apply education techniques consistently to reinforce horse learning 4.2 Recognise and apply positive reinforcement to the horse for progress towards desired behaviours 4.3 Use appropriate techniques to manage behaviour and performance according to current equine learning theory and to ensure the wellbeing of the horse 4.4 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
Numeracy	Use percentages or ratios to estimate load to horse body weight
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 training 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
ACMEQU410 Educate pack horses	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 ACMEQU410 Educate pack 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:

- 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 carry loads over different terrains whilst being led on foot and from another horse
- educated one horse to be restrained
- demonstrated safe horse handling and riding skills and appropriate education techniques to ensure their own and others' safety and the wellbeing of the horse at all times.

*Note: Assessment may be undertaken with a horse or other domestic equid such as a donkey or mule.

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 and conditions typically linked to strong fight or flight response
- high-risk behaviours to people, including biting, kicking, striking, bucking 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
- techniques to shape or modify horse behaviour
- horse characteristics suited to carrying loads and walking trails
- facilities and environments for educating pack horses, including:
 - controlled areas – arenas, fenced tracks
 - open areas – range of terrains and obstacles
- tack and equipment, including:
 - purpose of items
 - correct fit
 - how to check condition and working order
- camp or overnight routines and environments for pack horses
- criteria for matching the pack horse with lead horse, including temperament, size, speed and stamina
- features to include in an education plan, including objectives, stages and timeframes
- range of purposes for pack horses, including recreation, tourism and farm/agricultural work
- strategies to assess ability level of others, and their experience in handling 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 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 required for education program
- 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.

Links

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