



Australian Government

ACMEQU417 Advise on horse nutritional needs

Release: 1

ACMEQU417 Advise on horse nutritional needs

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 determine the impact of nutrition and diet on various classes of horses, and provide relevant advice to clients or carers. It can be applied to other domestic equines.

The unit applies to individuals who provide dietary advice in conjunction with the provision of health care or other equine services. They work autonomously and apply technical knowledge and skills to provide and communicate solutions for routine and non-routine issues relating to diet and nutrition relevant to their area of expertise.

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

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. Relate elements of the horse diet to physiological function	1.1 Identify requirements for maintaining healthy horse condition and digestive system 1.2 Evaluate composition and nutritional value of common horse diets

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.3 Determine features of a well-balanced diet for horse health, condition and workload 1.4 Identify signs of common nutritional deficiencies in horses 1.5 Evaluate impact and consequences of an unbalanced or deficient diet 1.6 Identify contraindications of digestive system or dietary issues
2. Assess horse condition and nutritional requirements	2.1 Use safe, low stress handling techniques when approaching and assessing horses 2.2 Assess nutritional requirements of individual or groups of horses 2.3 Assess body condition of individual horses 2.4 Evaluate options to adjust diet to address horse condition
3. Provide advice on horse condition, diet and nutritional needs	3.1 Advise client on horse nutrition and diet relevant to horse condition and own area of expertise 3.2 Refer client or carer to veterinarian or equine service practitioner for specific advice in response to changing or problematic conditions, as required 3.3 Advise client or carer of services providing feed analysis and ration formulation advice 3.4 Record equine nutrition and dietary information according to work practices

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 relating to horse feed, supplements and nutrition from a range of sources
Writing	Record information and data using appropriate industry and veterinary terminology in print-based and/or digital formats
Oral communication	Participate in spoken interactions using active listening and questioning to convey information and confirm understanding

Skill	Description
Numeracy	Perform basic calculations and measurements of volume, weight, temperature and ratios relevant to horses and feed components

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU417 Advise on horse nutritional needs	ACMEQU402 Determine nutritional needs in provision of horse health care	Title changed to reflect intent of unit Minor updates including reordering to Elements and Performance Criteria for clarity Foundation Skills table and Assessment Requirements updated	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 ACMEQU417 Advise on horse nutritional needs

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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:

- provided advice on horse nutrition and diet to two different clients or carers, covering at least three horses with different nutritional needs, including:
 - determined condition score of each horse
 - used safe, low stress handling techniques when assessing each horse
 - advised on adjustments to feed regime in response to an identified issue for at least two horses
 - recorded nutrition and dietary information for each horse.

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, including:
 - balanced diet
 - sufficient forage
 - frequency of feeding
- anatomical and physiological structures and functions of the horse digestive system, including:
 - features of non-ruminant herbivore digestive system
 - process of absorption and metabolism of nutrients
 - gastrointestinal tract disorders and colic
- methods used to assess and score horse condition and general health
- impact of class, age, workload and housing on diet and nutritional demands of horses
- factors affecting availability of nutrients to horses, including health issues
- features of a well-balanced diet, including nutritional elements

- signs of common nutritional deficiencies in horses, including:
 - poor condition, failure to thrive
 - dull coat
 - quidding
 - flaky or cracked hooves
- consequences of an unbalanced or nutrient deficient diet to horse function, health and behaviour
- circumstances requiring referral to a veterinarian or equine service provider, including:
 - non-positive response to dietary change
 - evidence of physical, behavioural or allergic reactions
- common feed stuffs and supplements, including:
 - nutritional value
 - quality indicators
 - use of supplements and additives
 - prohibited substances, including for specific disciplines or competitions
- techniques for effective client or carer interactions, including clear advice, collaborative communication and client confidentiality
- key requirements of current codes of practice and legislation and workplace procedures for advising on horse nutritional needs, including:
 - work, health and safety, including safely interacting with horses and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - animal welfare, including safe, humane and ethical care of horses
 - workplace hygiene, infection control and biosecurity requirements.

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, with three different nutritional requirements, assessed as suitable for the experience and skills of the individual
 - gear and equipment for horses, and PPE for individual
 - record-keeping formats
- relationships:
 - clients or carers as 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.

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