



Australian Government

ACMEQU502 Manage 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 5.0.

Application

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to establish, implement and evaluate all aspects of a horse health care plan to manage positive health outcomes. The unit applies to all horse classes, ages and uses, and other domestic equines, covering establishments such as training and breeding facilities, riding schools and agistment centres.

The unit applies to individuals, with prior industry or professional experience working with horses, who are responsible for maintaining the health of horses. They work autonomously and apply technical knowledge and skills to provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable health problems within a horse establishment, including training and overseeing staff.

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. Establish horse health	1.1 Develop a health care management plan incorporating routine and preventative treatment programs, emergency care and plans

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
care management plan	recommended by equine health professionals 1.2 Establish procedures and record-keeping system for monitoring horse health, and infection control and biosecurity requirements 1.3 Develop policy for humane euthanasia and disposal of bodies, according to local government regulations and applicable legislation 1.4 Organise facilities, equipment and preventative treatments required to implement health care 1.5 Train team members in health care, safe work, and infection control and biosecurity procedures
2. Manage routine health care and preventative treatments	2.1 Oversee regular assessment and recording of horse condition and implementation of routine health procedures 2.2 Monitor signs of illness, disease or injury and determine need for veterinary or other equine professional service, and organise as required 2.3 Source required products and implement preventative and/or treatment programs according to veterinary advice 2.4 Monitor implementation of hygiene, infection control and biosecurity procedures for equine establishment 2.5 Apply isolation or quarantine measures, as required, to control identified infectious disease and parasitic infection outbreaks
3. Manage emergency health care	3.1 Identify situations requiring immediate action, and implement emergency health management procedures 3.2 Stabilise, relocate or isolate horse according to health needs, and provide immediate care under veterinarian instructions 3.3 Assess viability of recovery and prognosis for life with veterinarian and relevant personnel, prioritising welfare of animal 3.4 Contribute to decision making, in consultation with veterinarian and relevant personnel, for situations requiring euthanasia 3.5 Manage infectious and zoonotic disease risk and precautions in consultation with veterinarian and team members 3.6 Report notifiable diseases according to workplace procedures and legislative requirements
4. Manage plans recommended by equine	4.1 Confirm visiting equine health professionals follow workplace and biosecurity procedures

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
health professionals	4.2 Assist equine health professional with safe examination and agree on health care plan or treatment 4.3 Implement and monitor routine health care and treatments recommended by equine health professional 4.4 Review and coordinate advice provided by multiple equine health professionals, as required 4.5 Record outcomes of recommended health care and treatments according to workplace procedures 4.6 Evaluate health care outcomes and treatments recommended by equine health professional
5. Evaluate equine health care management plan	5.1 Monitor horses during and after health treatment for signs of efficacy of treatments and other health problems 5.2 Review health treatment outcomes and procedures for effective management planning 5.3 Update health care management plan and procedures, as required

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 information in technical texts and treatment records related to equine health care
Writing	Record, report and update information logically using appropriate print-based and/or digital formats
Oral communication	Use questioning and active listening during verbal exchanges with relevant personnel to elicit, clarify and convey information
Numeracy	- Measure and calculate volume, quantity, temperature and weight - Calculate financial costs and charges - Calibrate equipment used in health and treatment programs

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU502 Manage horse health care	ACMPHR405 Implement and monitor equine health and welfare strategies	Title changed Code changed to reflect updated EQU sector and AQF level indicator changed from 4 to 5 to reflect revised unit outcomes Changes to Elements and Performance Criteria for clarity Foundation Skills table and Assessment Requirements updated	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 ACMEQU502 Manage horse health care

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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:

- documented a horse health care management plan for an equine workplace, covering:
 - routine and preventative treatments
 - emergency care
 - use of equine health professionals
 - biosecurity and infection control
 - euthanasia
- prepared record-keeping formats and system appropriate for workplace
- trained and monitored at least two team members in horse health care procedures and compliance with safe work, infection control and biosecurity practices
- monitored, reviewed and updated health care plans for at least three horses with different health needs, including:
 - one horse requiring the service of an equine health professional
 - one horse requiring routine and preventative health care
 - one horse requiring immediate or emergency care.

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:

- aspects of horse health to be managed, including:
 - daily and routine checks
 - preventative treatments
 - services provided by equine health practitioners and veterinarians
 - emergency care and treatments

- record-keeping formats and systems
- key structures and functions of horse physiological systems, including:
 - respiratory system
 - musculoskeletal system
 - digestive system
 - nervous system
 - reproductive system
 - temperature regulation
- indicators of normal and abnormal body system function and vital signs
- common horse health conditions and injuries, including signs, causes and treatment options
- common preventative health treatments, including parasite treatments and vaccinations
- infectious and zoonotic equine diseases, including:
 - diseases caused by bacteria, including strangles, listeriosis, tetanus and equine chlamydiosis (psittacosis)
 - diseases caused by fungi, including ringworm
 - diseases caused by parasites
 - diseases caused by viruses, including Hendra virus, equine herpes virus and equine influenza
- role and types of services offered by equine health professionals, including:
 - veterinarians
 - farriers and hoof care practitioners
 - equine dentists or equine dental technicians
 - body work or massage therapists
 - alternative equine therapies
 - horse educators to address behaviours impacting on health
- key workplace safety requirements relating to:
 - risk assessment and controls for safe interactions with horses
 - due diligence for safety of team members and other personnel
 - safe, low stress horse handling techniques
 - safe handling and storage of medicines, chemicals and cleaning agents
 - personal protective equipment (PPE)
- key considerations for infection control and biosecurity, including:
 - movement of animals, people and vehicles into, around and out of workplace
 - quarantine and isolation protocols
 - water supply and storage
 - pests and contaminants
 - hygiene and waste management practices
- key requirements of animal welfare legislation and codes of practice relating to safe, humane and ethical care and euthanasia of horses.

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 as specified in the performance evidence, assessed as suitable for the experience and skills of the individual
 - equipment, materials and treatments required for activities specified in the performance evidence
 - PPE correctly fitted and applicable to activity
- specifications:
 - record-keeping formats
 - records of horse health and treatment
- relationships:
 - team members, including veterinarian or equine health professional.

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.

Links

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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>