



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU510 Provide equine massage therapy services

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.

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 prepared for and completed a full body massage therapy service on six different horses, including at least one of each of the following:

- young horse
- mature horse (6–8 years or older)
- horse in active work/exercise
- horse undergoing rehabilitation or spelling.

In completing the massages above, the individual must have:

- covered all of the following body areas in each massage:
 - head, neck and shoulder
 - fore limbs
 - withers and back
 - hind area and hind limbs
- demonstrated the following massage techniques using appropriate pressure:
 - effleurage and longitudinal gliding strokes
 - frictions and vibrations
 - kneading
 - petrissage and compressions
 - tapotement
 - deep direct pressure
- demonstrated correct body stance and position while massaging for safety and to relax each horse
- demonstrated safe, low stress horse handling techniques with each horse
- interacted with at least two different clients or carers.

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:

- role and responsibilities of equine massage service providers, including:
 - scope of practice and limits to activities as specified in relevant veterinary practice and restricted acts of veterinary science
 - referrals for conditions outside provider's professional and personal scope
 - professional indemnity and public liability insurance requirements
- responsibilities under relevant health and safety and animal welfare legislation and codes of practice
- principles of equine massage service provision, including:
 - practices to minimise safety hazards and risks
 - ethical and humane handling of horses
 - hygiene and biosecurity requirements
 - principles of client confidentiality
- suitability, efficacy and welfare implications of massage and physical therapy practices
- massage techniques and how to apply them, including:
 - effleurage and longitudinal gliding strokes
 - frictions and vibrations
 - kneading
 - petrissage and compressions
 - tapotement
 - deep direct pressure
- equine musculoskeletal system, including:
 - bones and joints
 - major bony landmarks surface anatomy and palpable bony landmarks
 - key function and features of fore and hind limbs, including distal limb and hoof capsule
 - key muscles and their actions, origin and insertion points
 - location of deep and superficial muscles
 - location of tendons, ligaments and soft tissues
 - function and anatomy of fascial sheaths
- physical conditions that can be relieved through massage, including muscle spasm/twitching, trapped nerves, tension
- horse responses to tension, release or discomfort, including:
 - evasive responses – fidgeting, shifting, flinching
 - head bobbing and lowering
 - licking, chewing and yawning
 - eye blinking
 - breath release, sighing

- breaking wind
- other therapies and equipment used in equine health and recovery
- health and safety hazards and controls when working in close proximity with horses, including:
 - use of safe, low stress handling techniques
 - use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - hygiene and infection control
 - zoonotic and infectious diseases, including those caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses
- techniques for effective client or carer interactions, including clear advice, collaborative communication and client confidentiality
- documentation requirements for recording massage therapy details:
 - client and horse records
 - referrals to veterinarian or equine service practitioner
 - insurance documentation.

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 assessed as suitable for the experience and skills of the individual, as specified in the performance evidence
 - horse gear and PPE appropriate for activity
 - record-keeping formats
- relationships:
 - clients or carers as specified in the performance evidence.

Two Companion Volumes are available:

- *Companion Volume: User Guide: Equine Allied Health* provides delivery and assessment information tailored for equine allied health practitioners
- *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

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>