



Australian Government

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.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare and massage horses using techniques to relieve and/or prevent muscular and/or related abnormal physical conditions.

The unit applies to individuals who perform equine massage services for clients and carers. They work autonomously, take responsibility for their own work and apply technical massage knowledge and skills to provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable problems.

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.

Current state/territory veterinary practice legislation and restricted acts of veterinary science limit the activities that may be carried out by non-registered veterinarians. Requirements vary between jurisdictions. All activities should be carried out within the constraints of the current, relevant legislation.

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 massage	1.1 Review information from initial assessment and client information

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
horse	1.2 Determine or confirm massage requirements, including body area/s, sequence, and degree of pressure 1.3 Outline massage therapy approach to client or carer and obtain consent to proceed
2. Prepare horse for massage therapy	2.1 Assess and control risks associated with interacting with horses in close proximity 2.2 Prepare a safe and controlled area for conducting horse massage therapy, and introduce horse to environment 2.3 Complete required pre-massage preparation and remove rugs and gear, as required 2.4 Approach and interact with horse using safe, low stress handling techniques, and secure as required
3. Massage horse using appropriate techniques	3.1 Work within equine safe zones and position own body and hands to reassure horse and detect potential movement or reactions during massage 3.2 Provide massage therapy using appropriate technique, sequence, and degree of pressure suitable for body area and to meet horse requirements 3.3 Monitor horse response and progress throughout massage therapy 3.4 Adapt handling and adjust massage techniques and pressure control in response to horse reactions and behaviour 3.5 Monitor horse for signs of pain, distress or alarm and recognise when behaviour indicates activity should be discontinued 3.6 Recognise when environmental activity interferes with horse and therapy, and take appropriate action 3.7 Recognise conditions that require referral to a veterinarian or other equine service practitioner 3.8 Maintain efficient and effective use of own body position and movements to ensure personal health and safety
4. Finalise massage therapy service	4.1 Complete post-therapy procedures and check horse is in suitable condition to return to client or carer 4.2 Evaluate and review effectiveness of massage therapy 4.3 Explain horse progress and response to massage therapy to client or carer, and to other equine practitioners as required

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	4.4 Offer advice to client or carer on care of horse following massage therapy, and explain follow-up actions 4.5 Finalise invoice, transaction or service arrangements 4.6 Complete, update and store records as required according to workplace 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
Writing	Complete workplace documentation using print-based or digital formats and veterinary terminology suitable for conveying comprehensive information to others
Oral communication	- Explain information using appropriate tone and pace suitable for audience to ensure comprehension - Use listening and questioning to elicit and clarify information and confirm understanding
Numeracy	Use mathematical concepts to calculate or estimate time and cost

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU510 Provide equine massage therapy services	Not applicable	The unit has been created to address a skill or task required by industry that is not covered by an existing unit	Newly created

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 ACMEQU510 Provide equine massage therapy services

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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 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.

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