



Australian Government

ACMEQU511 Develop and implement an equine rehabilitation program

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 develop an equine rehabilitation or exercise program to implement and to support a client (owner/carer) to implement.

The unit applies to practitioners who provide massage or associated therapies as part of an allied health service for horses and other equines. They work autonomously and apply in-depth, technical knowledge and skills to provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable problems within their scope of professional practice.

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. Assess client requirements and scope	1.1 Assess client goals, expectations and preferences using suitable questioning techniques

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
of horse needs	1.2 Use appropriate technique to assess horse condition 1.3 Develop and document an overview of horse for planning and re-evaluation purposes 1.4 Identify potential barriers to achieving client goals and expectations 1.5 Refer client to registered veterinarian or equine allied health professional, for services outside of scope of practice 1.6 Actively involve client in planning process, providing opportunities for questions and discussion of concerns
2. Develop rehabilitation program	2.1 Analyse and evaluate variety of rehabilitation methods and variables, including intensity, volume, frequency, load, repetitions and rest intervals 2.2 Determine rehabilitation method and equipment required to achieve goals 2.3 Develop equine specific strategies to overcome identified issues and enhance program success 2.4 Seek guidance from a registered veterinarian or equine allied health professional, as required 2.5 Document agreed plan of action and services to be provided 2.6 Clearly explain details of options and cost implications to client 2.7 Select techniques to evaluate the program
3. Conduct equine rehabilitation activities	3.1 Establish a safe environment, assemble equipment and resources and conduct safety and risk assessments 3.2 Conduct planned rehabilitation activities 3.3 Monitor horse to identify signs of discomfort, pain or fatigue and modify activities as required 3.4 Monitor activities for intensity, technique and safety, and modify activities, as required 3.5 Seek ongoing guidance from, or refer to, a registered veterinarian or an equine allied health professional as appropriate 3.6 Maintain and monitor records of progress, relevant to established goals and program plan
4. Work collaboratively with client to implement	4.1 Establish realistic expectations with client

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
equine rehabilitation program	4.2 Explain rehabilitation activities for client to implement 4.3 Provide clear and accurate instruction and demonstration of activities with use of equipment, and confirm client understanding 4.4 Provide support for duration of rehabilitation program 4.5 Reassess horse at agreed intervals, and adapt rehabilitation program to meet changing needs 4.6 Educate client to maintain and monitor records of progress, relevant to established goals and program plan
5. Evaluate program	5.1 Evaluate rehabilitation program at appropriate intervals 5.2 Measure progress using re-evaluation fitness and/or functional testing procedures 5.3 Request and respond to feedback from client 5.4 Identify rehabilitation program components needing emphasis, attention or modification 5.5 Maintain records of evaluation and modification of program

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 information in technical texts relating to equine anatomy and physiology
Writing	- Use objective language and current industry terminology in written records - Complete workplace documentation using print-based and/or digital formats
Oral communication	Use questioning and active listening to elicit and convey information appropriate for audience
Numeracy	Collate and interpret data relating to intensity, volume, frequency, load, repetitions and time intervals

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEUQ511 Develop and implement an equine rehabilitation program	Not applicable	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 ACMEQU511 Develop and implement an equine rehabilitation program

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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:

- planned, documented, implemented and evaluated a rehabilitation or exercise program for two horses, each with different needs selected from the following:
 - tendon or ligament injury or condition
 - gait abnormality or lameness
 - muscular or neuromuscular condition
 - restricted joint mobility
 - injury or surgical recovery
- planned, documented, provided assistance and evaluated an equine rehabilitation program to be implemented by a client
- maintained accurate and detailed records for all equine rehabilitation programs above.

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 and features of equine physiology, biomechanics, conformation and proprioception
- assessment techniques, including:
 - range of motion
 - symmetry in gaits
 - palpation techniques
 - horse body condition scoring systems
- common equine health problems and injuries requiring rehabilitation or exercise, noting conditions to be managed by veterinarians, including:
 - acute injury

- tendon or ligament injury
- gait condition or lameness
- muscular or neuromuscular condition
- restricted joint mobility
- bone and tissue healing
- inflammation
- pressure points from poorly fitting gear
- neurological condition
- surgical recovery
- effects of aging
- evidence-based principles, techniques and contraindications for equine-specific therapeutic exercise, including:
 - physical manipulation
 - stretching exercises and joint mobilisation
 - neuro-muscular exercise training
 - application of modalities, including hot and cold therapies, laser therapy, ultrasound
- key features of equine physiology, including:
 - adaptations of horse body systems to exercise
 - basic principles of chemistry and biology relating to equine exercise and fitness
- equipment relevant for implementing a rehabilitation program, including:
 - horse gear and protective equipment
 - heart rate monitors
 - electronic tracking and recording devices, including GPS, video and camera functionality
 - rehabilitation aids, including blocks, resistance bands
 - rehabilitation equipment, including blocks, treadmills, swimming pools, video analysis
- techniques for evaluating rehabilitation or exercise program
- techniques for effective client interactions, including clear advice, collaborative communication and support strategies
- record-keeping:
 - client and horse records
 - referrals to veterinarian or equine service practitioner
- key requirements of animal welfare legislation relevant to the safe and ethical care of equines..

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
 - templates and formats for records and charts
- specifications:
 - legislation, regulations, codes of practice and standards relevant to equine allied health service provision in area of expertise
- relationships:
 - clients (owners/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>