



Australian Government

ACMHBR402 Manage foaling and post-foaling problems

Release: 1

ACMHBR402 Manage foaling and post-foaling problems

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to attend to and manage problems with mares and foals during and after birth.

The unit applies to individuals who use specialised horse knowledge and skills, have responsibility for a work activity, area or team, and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable and sometimes unpredictable problems in the horse breeding sector.

No occupational licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Work health and safety and animal welfare legislation relevant to interacting with horses applies to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and state/territory jurisdictions. Users are advised to check with the relevant authority for specific requirements.

NOTE: The terms ‘occupational health and safety’ (OHS) and ‘work health and safety’ (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Prerequisite unit of competency for this unit is:

- ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely.

Note the following chain of prerequisites that also applies to this unit.

Unit of competency	Prerequisite requirement
ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely	ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour

Unit Sector

Horse Breeding (HBR)

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 the mare for foaling	1.1 Carry out a risk assessment for all activities working with pregnant mares and newborn foals, and take action to control risks 1.2 Calculate foaling date and prepare mare and facilities for foaling 1.3 Adjust mare nutritional requirements according to nutrition plan 1.4 Determine vaccination schedule in consultation with veterinarian
2. Prepare mare for birthing	2.1 Monitor signs of foaling and imminent birth in mares, and review mare foaling history 2.2 Wash and clean the mare's udder and perineal areas and wrap the upper half of the tail 2.3 Check for Caslick and open when necessary 2.4 Ensure emergency resuscitation kit is stocked and ready
3. Monitor mares and foals during and after birth	3.1 Monitor and assist mares during the stages of labour using safe and calm horse handling techniques 3.2 Ensure emergency procedures are in place for veterinarian care and/or transport to clinic 3.3 Make sure foal is breathing and receives colostrum soon after birth 3.4 Put iodine on the umbilical stump and check over several days for the presence of urine 3.5 Make sure the foal stands and nurses correctly in a reasonable timeframe 3.6 Make sure the mare expels the afterbirth in appropriate time and check it for completeness 3.7 Check the mare for several days for any signs of reproductive tract infection 3.8 Check the foal for several days to monitor health and vital signs
4. Apply treatments to mares and foals	4.1 Make sure the foal is protected against tetanus 4.2 Ensure foals are vaccinated and dewormed as necessary

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	4.3 Implement workplace procedures for dealing with orphan foals 4.4 Check mares for signs that may warrant attention from a veterinarian 4.5 Record details of the birth and maintain workplace records

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 and extract key information from individual mare records
Writing	Enter accurate data and observations about the birth for the mare and newborn foal details in workplace records
Numeracy	Use basic arithmetic to calculate expected foaling date
Navigate the world of work	Follow regulatory and workplace procedures, including work health and safety, safe horse handling and animal welfare requirements, associated with own role in managing foaling and post-foaling problems
Get the work done	Plan and sequence tasks; monitor risks and progress of mares and foals, adjusting activities to achieve outcomes

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMHBR402 Manage foaling and post-foaling problems	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

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 ACMHBR402 Manage foaling and post-foaling problems

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has managed foaling and post-foaling of at least three mares, including:

- checking each mare for signs of difficult birth prior to foaling
- assisting each mare during the stages of labour using safe and calm horse handling techniques
- monitoring mare and foal during and after birth
- providing care and attending to each newborn foal and any orphan foal
- implementing vaccination program
- providing antenatal treatments to each mare and foal.

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:

- principles and practices for managing foaling, including:
 - normal pregnancy and foaling parameters
 - complications and issues during labour
 - common newborn foal diseases
 - foal health problems
 - importance of colostrum and checking colostrum levels
 - sucking reflex in newborn foals
 - newborn foal examination
 - raising orphan foals and fostering newborn foals
- identifying specific hazards and risks and safe techniques relating to foaling and post-foaling activities:
 - handling pregnant mares

- handling and safely holding or restraining foals
- safe work practices relating to foaling and post-foaling activities, including:
 - safe horse and foal handling techniques, including working alone
 - hygiene and biosecurity
 - animal welfare principles and practices.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various pregnant mares and newborn foals assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual
 - appropriate tack and equipment for managing foaling and post-foaling problems
 - personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly fitted and applicable to activity for the individual
- specifications:
 - work instructions.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training*.

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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