



**Australian Government**

# **ACMPHR401 Interpret equine behaviour**

**Release: 2**

# ACMPHR401 Interpret equine behaviour

## Modification History

| Release   | Comments                                                                                |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Release 2 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0. |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

## Application

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to interpret and apply knowledge of equine ethology, cognition and learning to ensure that the behavioural needs and welfare of horses are met while maintaining a safe working environment. It covers all breeds and intended uses and environments. The unit focuses on horses and can be applied to other domestic equids.

The unit applies to individuals who have an independent or management role working with horses, and require a detailed understanding of their behaviour and ethological needs to make decisions relating to their welfare, care, handling, education and management.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.

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

## Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

## Unit Sector

Performance Horse (PHR)

## 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. Investigate equine                            | 1.1 Determine the management implications of meeting innate equine                                     |

| Elements                                                              | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>                      | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| behaviour and the implications for management, handling and education | behavioural needs<br>1.2 Identify problem behaviours in horses including likely causes<br>1.3 Apply evidence-based equine learning theory to the education and management of horses<br>1.4 Communicate information clearly about the education level and behavioural problems of individual horses to workers and clients<br>1.5 Reinforce safe handling techniques and the risks associated with interacting with horses to workers and clients |
| 2. Apply knowledge of equine behaviour                                | 2.1 Research current information of equine ethology and learning relevant to the education and management of horses<br>2.2 Analyse and apply knowledge of equine ethology and learning to specific education methods, systems and techniques<br>2.3 Develop a plan to manage the behaviour of a horse to perform a specific task using knowledge of equine learning and principles of animal welfare                                             |
| 3. Apply knowledge of equine welfare                                  | 3.1 Analyse regulations, codes of practice and animal welfare frameworks relevant to horses<br>3.2 Conduct a horse welfare assessment, applying a recognised animal welfare framework<br>3.3 Evaluate the outcomes of the welfare assessment and likely impact on equine behaviour                                                                                                                                                               |
| 4. Improve horse welfare using knowledge of equine behaviour          | 4.1 Plan and implement methods to meet equine welfare requirements and allow for behavioural needs in a variety of situations<br>4.2 Evaluate management techniques against their impact on the welfare and behaviour of horses<br>4.3 Adjust organisational policy and procedures to address or incorporate knowledge of equine behaviour                                                                                                       |

## 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Learning                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively source current, evidence-based information on equine learning theory and welfare to inform practices</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Oral communication         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapt communication techniques to convey information effectively to people with diverse views and backgrounds</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Reading                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret textual information to identify and select key information about equine behaviour and welfare relevant to work operations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| Navigate the world of work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise the importance of applying knowledge of equine behaviour and welfare to improve safety in interacting with horses and horse wellbeing</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                      |
| Get the work done          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse problems and risks relevant to equine behaviour and welfare in the work environment, and devise clear and practical strategies or plans to address</li> <li>Use familiar digital systems and tools to access, analyse and present information relevant to role and work area</li> </ul> |

## Unit Mapping Information

| Code and title current version                       | Code and title previous version                      | Comments                                                                                                           | Equivalence status |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ACMPHR401<br>Interpret equine behaviour<br>Release 2 | ACMPHR401<br>Interpret equine behaviour<br>Release 1 | Minor changes for clarity and consistency of language<br><br>Element 3 split into two to strengthen animal welfare | 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 ACMPHR401 Interpret equine behaviour

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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:

- researched and collated a portfolio of information on the key features of equine ethology, behaviour and welfare relevant to work operations
- accurately interpreted equine behaviour, including body language, vocalisation, locomotory behaviour and interactions with other horses, on at least five occasions
- investigated approaches used at three horse facilities, including management routines used for similar purposes, to identify good practices and/or recommend changes to improve the wellbeing and behaviour of horses in each facility
- communicated information about the individual behaviour and welfare of two horses to workers and/or clients relevant to work operations.

## 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:

- behavioural needs and patterns of domestic horses, including:
  - handled and unhandled horses
  - herd behaviour
  - individual stabled or yarded horses
- equine behaviour, including:
  - body language and vocalisations
  - evolutionary basis of horse behaviour and its impact on the behavioural needs of horses
  - affective states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue

- behaviours and conditions typically linked to strong fight or flight response
- high-risk behaviours (biting, kicking, panicking, extreme flight response)
- key features of current research in equine cognition, ethology, behaviour and learning
- key animal welfare frameworks and application to horses, including, Five Freedoms, Five Domains Model, quality of life indicators
- the application of research to the management, handling, housing and education of horses
- identification of situations requiring specialist advice on equine behaviour
- the effect of the environment, housing, handling, education and management decisions on the behaviour and welfare of horses
- regulatory requirements and organisational policies and procedures relevant to equine behaviour, including:
  - work health and safety
  - animal welfare
  - local government regulations.

## 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:
  - access to live horses and video scenarios to observe behaviour
  - technology to access information, and/or sources of current information on equine behaviour and welfare.

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.

## Links

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