



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMPHR408 Educate and train performance horses

Release: 1

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Modification History

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

Performance Evidence

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

There must be evidence that the individual has educated and trained at least two performance horses, including a young horse, and either a horse demonstrating unwanted behaviour or an untrained horse, including:

- interpreting behavioural responses of horses to training and proactively anticipating likely behavioural responses of horses, including young horses, to training program and the environment under saddle and in-hand
- handling horses in-hand at a high level of technical proficiency and safety for the relevant discipline
- riding horses at a high level of technical proficiency and safety for the relevant discipline
- undertaking health inspections and temperament evaluations
- developing training programs to deliver humane training outcomes using relevant research findings in equine cognition, ethology and behaviour
- designing and implementing training techniques, applying knowledge of equine anatomy, physiology and biomechanics
- developing a sequential training program for individual horses based on horse cognitive capacities and current physical fitness to cope with the demands of the program as it progresses
- adapting training programs based on the horse behaviour, fitness and health
- using equipment appropriately and humanely to achieve training outcomes
- working proactively with veterinarians, farriers and allied health professionals to manage horse health during training program
- adhering to regulatory requirements and workplace and industry procedures and practices relevant to role and training performance horses, including:
 - animal welfare and prevention of cruelty to animals
 - work health and safety (WHS)
 - biosecurity
 - environment and sustainability.

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:

- current scientific findings on equine cognition, intelligence, ethology and learning abilities relevant to training horses
- equine behaviour, including:
 - body language
 - vocalisations
 - affective states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue
- behaviour modification techniques
- services of trainers and specialists with expertise relevant to the training goals, sport or discipline
- key features of equine anatomy, physiology and biomechanics
- purpose, function and operation of training equipment
- specific requirements of the discipline in which the horse is to be trained
- specific limitations and requirements of young horses undergoing training
- signs of stress, fatigue, lameness or other health issues, and when the services of a veterinarian, farrier or allied health professional may be required
- key requirements of work health and safety regulations and guidelines relating to:
 - risk assessment, control and review
 - due diligence for staff and other personnel
 - safe horse handling techniques
 - personal protective equipment (PPE), including use, storage, maintenance and replacement schedules
- key requirements of biosecurity standards, relevant to horse disease and hygiene standards
- key requirements of animal welfare standards, policies and procedures relevant to the safe, humane and ethical care and housing of horses
- key requirements of environmental and sustainability standards, policies and procedures relevant to equine facilities and properties.

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:
 - variety of horses, including young horses, horses demonstrating unwanted behaviour and untrained horses – horses used in assessments must have been assessed as suitable for handling by the individual, who must have pre-existing industry or professional experience

- personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly fitted and applicable to activity for the individual
- appropriate tack for individual, horse and education and training programs.

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.

The following specific assessor requirements apply to this unit:

- a minimum of three years' experience to develop a high level of technical proficiency and knowledge of the discipline in which the horse is to be trained.

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -

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