



Australian Government

ACMVET414 Nurse foals

Release: 1

ACMVET414 Nurse foals

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 2.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to care for newborn foals during the neonatal period.

The unit applies to veterinary nurses who work under the supervision of a registered veterinarian in a veterinary practice.

Veterinary nurses who nurse foals need to hold and apply specialised knowledge of foal anatomy, physiology and behaviour and make reliable clinical assessments and judgements of foal health and growth.

Legislative and regulatory requirements apply to veterinary nurses and vary between state/territory jurisdictions. All users of this unit are advised to check requirements with the relevant state or territory authority.

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

The 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

Veterinary Nursing (VET)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	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 and maintain health of neonatal foals	1.1 Observe and assess neonatal foal behaviour and development 1.2 Assess foal's passive immune status 1.3 Recognise foals at risk of developing illnesses 1.4 Use humane, safe work and manual handling techniques to handle and restrain foals for routine procedures
2. Assess foal growth and development to six weeks of age	2.1 Identify normal growth and development of foals 2.2 Identify common abnormalities in growth and development of foals
3. Perform a physical examination of an equine neonate	3.1 Obtain and record foal and foaling history 3.2 Perform physical examination of foal 3.3 Record examination findings using industry standard terminology
4. Care for and handle sick or compromised foals	4.1 Carry out foal care procedures according to WHS requirements including assessing and controlling risks 4.2 Carry out infection control protocols for new foals 4.3 Catch, hold and restrain sick or compromised foals using safe horse-handling techniques 4.4 Provide nursing assistance for compromised foals 4.5 Assist with assessment to determine whether special nursing and intensive care is required 4.6 Assess foal maturity status
5. Provide initial care for critically ill foal	5.1 Provide temperature control for critically ill foals 5.2 Feed critically ill or compromised foals 5.3 Assist veterinarian before, and during referral to, neonatal intensive care unit
6. Identify the clinical signs of common foal	6.1 Identify and assess symptoms of common foal diseases 6.2 Record and report observations using industry standard

Element	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
diseases in the early neonatal period	terminology

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
Numeracy	- Measure indicators to assist in determining foal health, including volume of colostrum consumed, levels of immunoglobins (igg) in colostrum - Measure foal vital signs, including temperature, pulse, respiration and mucous membranes - Measuring dosages and recording treatments
Get the work done	Address irregularities and contingencies in the context of the work role

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMVET414 Nurse foals	ACMVET414A Nurse foals	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages Minor changes to clarify content Assessment requirements revised Prerequisite added Safety requirements added in line with Safety in Equine Training Project	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 ACMVET414 Nurse foals

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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 cared for a minimum of two newborn foals, including:

- appropriately restraining a foal
- teaching a weak foal to rise
- providing temperature support
- moving a compromised foal
- providing limb support
- providing respiratory support
- providing nutritional support.

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:

- common foal diseases and indicators of each, including:
 - meconium retention
 - septicaemia
 - neonatal maladjustment syndrome/hypoxic ischaemic syndrome
 - localised infections
 - neonatal seizures
 - infectious and non-infectious diarrhoea
 - gastroduodenal ulcers
 - haemolytic disease (NI)
 - ruptured bladder
 - septic arthritis (joint ill)
 - umbilical infection and/or herniation
 - congenital and genetic disorders

- hypoglycaemia
- rhodococcus equi
- indicators of normal behaviour for neonatal foals, including blinking, sitting up, suckling reflex, attempts to rise, stand and walk, search for udder, suckling mare, awareness of immediate surroundings, defecation, urination
- normal and abnormal health parameters for newborn foals
- aspects of foal growth and development to be assessed, including:
 - growth rate
 - weight gain
 - limb conformation
 - illness
 - dam's condition and ability to produce milk
- safe and humane handling techniques for impaired foals
- normal and abnormal behaviour patterns for newborn foals
- nutritional requirements and options for impaired foals
- types of assistance, including:
 - restrain a foal
 - teach a weak foal to rise
 - provide temperature support to a compromised foal
 - provide limb support
 - provide respiratory support
 - provide nutritional support
- nursing techniques for impaired foals and critically ill foals, including:
 - respiratory support
 - feeding of appropriate cases
 - safe transport to neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- principles and practices of infection control related to the care and handling of foals and staff
- principles and practices of routine care of hospitalised animals
- principles of animal welfare as they relate to nursing care of newborn foals and foals with compromised health issues
- resuscitation techniques and equipment
- work health and safety and animal welfare legislative requirements and codes of practice.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - in the workplace or an environment that accurately reflects a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - newborn foals

- equipment and resources typically available in a veterinary practice
- specifications:
 - access to organisational policies and procedures, current legislation, regulations and relevant codes of practice
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - interactions with a registered veterinarian or minimum of Certificate IV qualified veterinary nurse.

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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