



Australian Government

AHCPHR506 Manage performance horse breeding operations

Release: 1

AHCPhR506 Manage performance horse breeding operations

Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit applies to owners, managers and supervisors of performance horse breeding operations. It will equip students with the skills and knowledge required to successfully manage all aspects of the operations of a performance horse stud. The work functions within this unit require the ability to assess the structural and human resource requirements of a performance horse stud. It also requires the development and management of a breeding program, including the calendar of operations, stallion care, mare and foal care and foaling operations.

The work associated with this unit is undertaken both independently and in conjunction with others. Working with horses at this level requires the application of extensive knowledge in a wide range of situations and the application of a broad range of skills.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil.

Unit Sector

Performance horse (PHR)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

Element	Performance criteria
1. Apply reproductive anatomy and physiology principles to stud practice	1.1 Assess the reproductive anatomy of stallions on a regular basis during the breeding season to inform stallion management procedures 1.2 Assess the reproductive anatomy and physiological function of mares on a regular basis during the breeding season to inform mare management procedures 1.3 Monitor and report on the behavioural characteristics of oestrous, dioestrous and anoestrous according to industry standard procedures 1.4 Monitor and report the characteristics of pregnancy according to industry standard procedures.
2. Assess stud requirements	2.1 Develop stud breeding program goals and strategies 2.2 Assess and document stud requirements according to enterprise objectives 2.3 Identify resources required to support the breeding programs 2.4 Determine the optimal stud farm layout to facilitate ease of management and meet behavioural needs of horses 2.5 Select breeding options to maximize opportunities and meet stud objectives within industry guidelines 2.6 Develop strategies for compliance with work health safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and environmental legislation and guidelines
3. Manage the breeding calendar of operations	3.1 Document and communicate the calendar of operations to incorporate routine seasonal breeding practices 3.2 Identify and research potential stallions, mares and genetic material for use in the breeding operation 3.3 Develop and implement routine health management procedures 3.4 Determine appropriate breeding and horse management timelines in accordance with annual calendar 3.5 Complete breeding documents in accordance with enterprise and industry requirements
4. Manage conception	4.1 Develop and implement a covering timetable for stallions 4.2 Monitor and report key milestones of conception and gestation are according to industry procedures 4.3 Identify and select relevant pregnancy detection techniques suitable for use on the stud farm 4.4 Develop and implement a strategy for the timely and efficient detection of pregnancies

Element	Performance criteria
5. Manage subfertility	5.1 Identify the causes of subfertility and infertility in stallions 5.2 Develop and implement strategies to treat and minimise the impact of stallion subfertility or infertility 5.3 Identify the causes of subfertility and infertility in mares 5.4 Develop and implement management strategies to treat and minimise the impact of mare subfertility and infertility
6. Manage foaling operations	6.1 Implement plans to manage mares immediately prior to foaling 6.2 Oversee the foaling down of mares 6.3 Develop and implement a plan to manage foaling emergencies 6.4 Develop and implement plans for the treatment and management of neonatal illness and injury 6.5 Develop and implement post foaling mare and foal care procedures
7. Manage foetal loss and abortion in mares	7.1 Identify the signs and causes of foetal loss and abortion, and develop procedures to routinely monitor mares for these conditions 7.2 Develop and implement a strategy to prevent or minimise the risk of abortion 7.3 Develop and implement a plan to respond and manage abortion or suspected abortion 7.4 Identify mares that have aborted or at risk of abortion and implement industry standard management procedures
8. Evaluate the application of assisted reproductive technologies to the performance horse industry	8.1 Evaluate the potential benefits of assisted reproductive technologies to stud goals and operations 8.2 Evaluate the costs and implications of assisted reproductive technologies against stud goals and objectives

Foundation Skills

Foundation Skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

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

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

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Assessment Requirements for AHCPHR506 Manage performance horse breeding operations

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must be assessed on their ability to integrate and apply the performance requirements of this unit. Performance must be demonstrated consistently over time and in a suitable range of contexts.

The candidate must provide evidence that they can:

- handle horses including mares, foals, young horses and stallions where appropriate
- evaluate the condition and identify common faults of mare and stallion external genitalia
- identify, record and manage general and breeding related health problems, injuries and diseases
- monitor, record and manage behaviour including behaviour related to breeding and foaling
- identify all aspects of the reproductive cycle of the mare including oestrous and dioestrus
- implement medical and veterinary procedures including hygiene protocols, vaccination requirements, medications and treatments including intramuscular and subcutaneous injections
- foal down mares and respond to abnormal foaling and foaling emergencies
- identify and manage healthy and ill neonatal foals
- fit and use relevant equipment such as breeding hobbles, halters, bridles, lip twitches
- develop and implement a range of schedules
- access and analyse current research information on relevant breeding related topics such as emerging assisted reproduction technologies, infertility and dystocia
- conduct research to identify potential stallions, mares and genetic material suitable for use in the breeding program
- identify and implement design requirements to facilitate the safe and effective management of the operations of the stud farm
- apply literacy skills to read and produce written documentation such as breeding documents, breeding and teasing records, contracts, health records, veterinary information
- apply verbal communication skills to communicate with clients, staff, veterinarians and industry professionals
- apply numeracy skills to calculate and calibrate medication dosages, calculate fees and costs, calculate breeding schedules and return to service periods

- apply appropriate animal welfare practices relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements and in accordance with relevant Prevention of Cruelty to Animals acts
- apply work health safety practices relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements
- apply biosecurity requirements relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements
- apply sustainability practices relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- stallion reproductive anatomy and physiology
- mare reproductive anatomy and physiology
- endogenous hormone cycles, functions and methods to manipulate these to improve breeding efficiency and conception rates
- signs of normal and abnormal breeding behaviour of mares and stallions
- conception, gestation and lactation
- signs and stages of normal and abnormal foaling
- signs and management of neonatal illness and injury
- seasonal breeding practices, limitations and requirements of relevant breed societies
- signs of injury and disease in breeding horses, foals and young horses including diseases of fertility, infectious diseases impacting fertility and preventative management including vaccination
- sources of information on potential sires, dams and genetic material for use in the breeding program
- veterinary and biosecurity procedures including hygiene protocols and quarantine
- equine facility design principles and infrastructure and equipment options
- staffing and scheduling of human resource requirements
- breed society rules, regulations and processes
- assisted reproductive technologies
- work health safety standards, policies and procedures relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements
- biosecurity standards, policies and procedures relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements
- animal welfare standards, policies and procedures relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements including relevant Prevention of Cruelty to Animals acts
- environmental management standards, policies and procedures relevant to enterprise and legislative requirements

Assessment Conditions

Assessment must be conducted using a range of live horses including pregnant and foaling mares, foals and could include breeding stallions in a simulated or real work environment.

Horses used in assessments must have been previously assessed as suitable for handling by students who have demonstrated prior professional or industry experience in handling horses. Assessment must confirm consistent performance can be applied in a range of relevant workplace circumstances.

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs.

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