



Australian Government

RGRPSH308 Provide first aid and emergency care for horses or other equines

Release: 1

RGRPSH308 Provide first aid and emergency care for horses or other equines

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package Version 2.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to measure and record vital signs of horses or other equines, identify and report signs of common illnesses and injuries, provide emergency care and follow first aid policies and procedures.

The unit applies to individuals who work in a broad range of occupations in horse-related or other equine-related industries, carrying out work under broad direction within industry guidelines.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, in accordance with applicable state/territory animal welfare and workplace health and safety legislative requirements.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Performance services horse (PSH)

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. Recognise and report signs of ill health or injury in horses or other equines	1.1 Inspect incident site and assess risks prior to helping horses or other equines 1.2 Measure and record temperature, pulse and respiration in line with

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	appropriate first aid procedures 1.3 Observe and report hydration levels and capillary refill in line with appropriate first aid procedures 1.4 Observe, identify and report signs of common illnesses in horses or other equines in line with appropriate first aid procedures 1.5 Observe, identify and report signs of shock in horses in line with appropriate first aid procedures 1.6 Determine and report signs of common injuries in horses or other equines according to workplace policies and procedures
2. Assess illnesses or injuries in horses or other equines	2.1 Assess threat to life of illness or injury, and incorporate into plan of action 2.2 Calm, restrain and/or quarantine horses or other equines using safe and ethical handling techniques 2.3 Follow first aid policy and procedures with respect to obligations to owners, state regulations, stable policy and duty of care 2.4 Follow referral or reporting procedures for injury, treatment and emergency care according to workplace first aid procedures
3. Apply basic first aid to horses or other equines	3.1 Use restraints and safe and ethical handling techniques to prevent further injury or to apply first aid to horses or other equines 3.2 Clean wounds and protect from further contamination or injury in line with appropriate first aid procedures 3.3 Apply bandages for management of bleeding, swelling and wounds in line with appropriate first aid procedures 3.4 Control swelling using appropriate techniques and materials in line with appropriate first aid procedures 3.5 Nurse horse or other equine to reduce impact of shock, distress and pain in line with appropriate first aid procedures 3.6 Monitor behaviour and vital signs, and record observations and treatments in line with appropriate first aid procedures
4. Respond to hoof and leg illnesses and injuries	4.1 Inspect feet and legs for signs of injury, soreness or foreign bodies 4.2 Identify common injuries and ailments to hooves, feet and legs 4.3 Apply poultice to affected area in line with appropriate first aid practices 4.4 Determine damage or irregular condition and fit of shoes

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
5. Assess health and fitness of horses or other equines	5.1 Implement pre-race and post-race or activity assessment of horse or other equine for injuries, distress, health and fitness 5.2 Apply pharmaceutical or therapeutic treatments under trainer or veterinary or equine health practitioner instructions and supervision 5.3 Identify and follow industry rules relating to prohibited substances and alternative treatments

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 textual information in workplace procedures and veterinary and medical instructions relating to the health and welfare of horses - Locate and interpret key information in medication labels
Writing	Use clear language and accurate industry and/or medical terminology for reporting and recording horse health and welfare information
Numeracy	Perform basic calculations and measurements of volume, weight and ratios to determine doses of medication
Navigate the world of work	Follow workplace procedures, including safety, animal welfare and first aid administration requirements, and meet expectations relating to own role and area of responsibility
Interact with others	Follow accepted industry practices and protocols for working collaboratively with and reporting horse health issues to supervisors and specialists
Get the work done	Monitor horse condition, assess health and injury irregularities and make decisions to initiate routine treatment or seek specialist advice and assistance

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title	Code and title	Comments	Equivalence status
----------------	----------------	----------	--------------------

current version	previous version		
RGRPSH308 Provide first aid and emergency care for horses or other equines	RGRPSH308A Provide first aid and emergency care for horses	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages. Minor changes to title and performance criteria.	Equivalent unit

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c4b8489-f7e1-463b-81c8-6ecce6c192a0>
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c4b8489-f7e1-463b-81c8-6ecce6c192a0>

Assessment Requirements for RGRPSH308 Provide first aid and emergency care for horses or other equines

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package Version 2.0.

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 provided first aid and emergency care for at least two horses or other equines (or completed appropriate simulations), including for each:

- recognised illness or injury and carried out a safety check of the factors relating to situation, incident site and/or treatment environment
- provided appropriate first aid and treatments to horse or other equine, including:
 - responding to hoof and leg illness or injury
 - calming and/or restraining horse or other equine safely and ethically
- reported irregularities to stable nominated person in a timely manner.

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, practices and industry terminology related to emergency care and first aid for horses or other equines
- safe handling techniques, including:
 - risks associated with catching, handling and restraining equines
 - methods of restraining horses or other equines
 - common equine behaviour, including when injured, stressed or ill
- signs and types of treatment for common illnesses and injuries in equines, including:
 - lameness
 - shock
- relevant industry rules for providing first aid and emergency care for horses, including:
 - rules for prohibited substances and alternative treatments
 - zoonosis, disease and biosecurity control

- reporting requirements, including for infectious reportable illnesses – Strangles, tetanus, EI, Hendra
- industry standards and expectations relevant to providing first aid and emergency care for horses:
 - effective working relationships, including teamwork
 - industry animal welfare requirements
 - industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately reflects performance in a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various horses or other equines requiring first aid or emergency care assessed as suitable for the skills and experience of the individual; or appropriate simulations if safety or access to injured equines is restricted
 - materials and equipment relevant to providing first aid and emergency care
 - access to trainer and/or veterinarian for instructions.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence 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

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c4b8489-f7e1-463b-81c8-6ecce6c192a0>