



Australian Government

RGRPSH401 Provide care and treatment of horses

Release: 1

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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 identify basic anatomy and physiology of horses, relate anatomy and body systems to the performance of racehorses, and follow illness and injury management plans for racehorses.

The unit applies to individuals who have responsibility for the practical care and management of harness or thoroughbred racehorses.

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.

Licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit. Users are advised to check with the relevant Principal Racing Authority (PRA) for current requirements.

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. Relate knowledge of horse anatomy and physiology to performance of racehorses	1.1 Explain key features and functions of main body systems of horses 1.2 Describe basic anatomy of horses 1.3 Identify signs and symptoms of common illnesses and injuries 1.4 Outline the potential impacts of illness and injury on horse

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	performance
2. Provide care and treatment of injured or sick horse	2.1 Assess and respond to illnesses or injuries in horses according to directions from supervisor and/or veterinarian or allied health practitioner 2.2 Assess effectiveness of different therapies and related technology or medications, and implement best options 2.3 Carry out all care and treatment activities using safe and ethical horse handling practices 2.4 Administer or supervise administration of prescribed medication according to directions and according to the rules of racing and relevant legislation
3. Monitor illness and injury management plans	3.1 Maintain horse care and treatment over period of illness or injury according to directions and animal welfare principles 3.2 Observe and monitor healing processes following illness or injury 3.3 Report horse progress regularly to supervisor and/or veterinary or allied health practitioner, and maintain records accurately 3.4 Maintain treatment records or book for every horse in care according to workplace policies and procedures

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 veterinary and medical information in horse treatment plans and instructions from specialists - Locate and interpret key information in medication labels
Writing	Use clear language and accurate industry and/or medical terminology for reporting and recording horse illness and injury information
Numeracy	Perform basic calculations and measurements of volume, weight and ratios to determine doses of medication
Navigate the	Follow workplace procedures, including safety and animal welfare requirements, and meet expectations relating to own role and area of

Skill	Description
world of work	responsibility
Interact with others	Follow accepted industry practices and protocols for working collaboratively with and reporting to supervisors and veterinary or health practitioners
Get the work done	- Plan, sequence and prioritise horse care and treatment activities and resources; monitoring risks and progress and adjusting activities to achieve outcomes - Make decisions and resolve problems related to own work and instructions, knowing when to take responsibility and when to notify others

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
RGRPSH401 Provide care and treatment of horses	RGRPSH401A Relate anatomical and physiological features to the care and treatment of horses	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages. Changes to title, elements and performance criteria to clarify intent of unit.	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>

Assessment Requirements for RGRPSH401 Provide care and treatment of horses

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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 cared for and treated at least three racehorses, including for each:

- assessed and provided care and treatment to injured or ill horse, including:
 - prescribed medication
 - different therapies and associated technology or medications
- used safe handling and work practices when caring for and treating the horse
- monitored illness and injury management plans
- reported horse progress regularly to supervisor and/or veterinary practitioner.

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 and practices of horse care and treatment
- common horse behaviour, social traits and vices, and how they accentuate or cause problems to horses when ill, injured or recovering
- key features of horse anatomy and musculoskeletal system
- key features and functions of horse body systems:
 - respiratory system
 - circulatory system
 - digestive system
 - reproductive system
- signs and symptoms of common illnesses and injuries of horse
- handling and restraining techniques for horses requiring diagnosis or treatment
- types of medications and therapies, including:
 - impact of medications or therapies and withdrawal times
 - prohibited substances

- storage, transport and disposal of veterinary chemicals and medications
- racing industry standards and expectations relevant to providing care and treatment for horses:
 - communication procedures within stable and wider racing industry
 - racing industry animal welfare requirements
 - racing industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures
 - relevant rules of racing, including reporting requirements.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - safe handling areas in racing stable and track environments
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various standardbred or thoroughbred racehorses requiring care and treatment
 - materials and equipment relevant to providing care and treatment for horses in assessment activity, including realistic case studies or scenarios if range of illnesses or injuries needs to be supplemented
 - access to supervisor, trainer and/or veterinary practitioner for instructions.

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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