



Australian Government

RGRPSH408 Manage horse health and welfare

Release: 1

RGRPSH408 Manage horse health and welfare

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 monitor, implement and maintain horse health and welfare, including ensuring provision of safe, compliant housing; determining horse health problems; deciding on and administering treatment; and monitoring horse progress.

The unit applies to individuals who have experience and specialised knowledge and skills in the practical care and management of harness or thoroughbred racehorses, and have responsibility for a work activity or area.

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. Plan horse health and emergency care procedures	1.1 Develop health and emergency care protocols and programs and communicate to staff 1.2 House horses in suitable and approved premises maintained to

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	health and safety standards specified by rules of racing and other regulations 1.3 Assess health status of individual horses 1.4 Review characteristics, signs and symptoms of healthy and sick or injured horses 1.5 Identify communicable diseases and implement control measures 1.6 Identify signs and symptoms of distressed or injured horses and prioritise horse for treatment
2. Implement health management programs for horses	2.1 Oversee health programs, including dental, vaccination, parasite control and hoof maintenance programs 2.2 Record data and compile and update health records
3. Decide on treatment for horses	3.1 Determine appropriate health care and management practices in line with stable and workplace health and safety procedures 3.2 Discuss prognosis for common illnesses and injuries with key stable personnel and/or trainer 3.3 Determine the need for veterinary assistance and/or specialist advice 3.4 Evaluate treatment options and select preferred option for common injuries and illnesses
4. Administer treatment and monitor horse progress	4.1 Assess and control risks prior to administering medication or treatments 4.2 Administer medication or treatments according to stable procedures, directions, and industry and animal welfare regulations 4.3 Confirm methods of administering medication, recording treatment and monitoring injectable medication 4.4 Administer medications, including oral and topical medications and inhalants, safely and ethically 4.5 Bandage horses using techniques and pressure to address injury 4.6 Monitor horse progress, reporting irregularities and maintaining records according to stable 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 programs 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 health and welfare information
Numeracy	Perform basic calculations and measurements of volume, weight and ratios to determine doses of medication
Oral communication	Use active listening and questioning techniques to convey and receive information from a range of personnel
Navigate the world of work	Follow workplace procedures, including safety and animal welfare 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 conveying information to trainers, staff and veterinary and health practitioners
Get the work done	- Plan, sequence and prioritise horse health and welfare activities to achieve outcomes - Make decisions and resolve problems related to horse health and welfare, 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
RGRPSH408 Manage horse health and welfare	RGRPSH408A Manage horse health and welfare	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages. Minor changes 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 RGRPSH408 Manage horse health and welfare

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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 managed a health and welfare program for at least three standardbred or thoroughbred horses, including:

- developed and planned horse health and emergency care procedures
- implemented health management programs for dental, vaccination, parasite control and hoof maintenance for each horse
- responded to illnesses or injuries, deciding on appropriate treatment for each horse
- administered treatments and medication according to directions
- monitored each horse's progress, recorded health data and reported irregularities.

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 health and welfare programs:
 - workplace procedures and industry requirements
 - emergency protocols and quarantine measures
 - horse health assessment procedures and recording systems
- key features of horse health and welfare programs for:
 - dental health
 - hoof maintenance
 - parasite treatments
 - vaccinations
- features of appropriate horse housing
- characteristics, signs and symptoms of:
 - communicable diseases and treatment options
 - common behaviour and social traits of healthy horses
 - common illnesses and injuries

- types of treatments and medication:
 - prohibited substances
 - basics of horse first aid
- racing industry standards and expectations relevant to managing horse health and welfare:
 - communication procedures within stable and wider racing industry
 - animal welfare requirements
 - safety requirements, including safe operating procedures
 - relevant rules of racing related to housing and care of horses.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - safe handling areas, such as racing stables and racetracks
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various standardbred or thoroughbred racehorses assessed as suitable for the skills and experience of the individual
 - materials and equipment relevant to providing care and treatment for horses in assessment activity
 - personal protective equipment correctly fitted and appropriate for activity for individual
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - access to trainer and/or veterinary practitioner for instructions.

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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