



Australian Government

SISOEQU015 Acquire and educate horses for sport or recreational programs

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to acquire and educate horses to suit the needs of equestrian sport or recreational riding programs.

It requires the ability to assess horse history, behaviour and health pre-purchase, and to plan and deliver education programs for individual horses to ensure their appropriate and safe behaviour.

This unit applies to a range of organisations involved in equestrian sport, instructional and recreational riding programs. It applies to experienced senior staff who work autonomously but in consultation with others. This can include trainers, guides, trail bosses, instructors and coaches who are proficient horse riders.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

SISOEQU001 Handle horses

SISOEQU010 Identify hazards, assess and control safety risks for horse handling and riding activities

Competency Field

Equine

Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Establish criteria for

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1.1. Evaluate available budget for purchasing horses.

- purchasing horses.
- 1.2. Identify and assess program needs in consultation with appropriate personnel.
 - 1.3. Identify characteristics and types of horses required to meet program and operational needs.
 - 1.4. Schedule purchases to allow time for horse education before operational use.
 - 1.5. Research horses available for sale from a range of sources.
 - 1.6. Investigate history of horse use, education and behaviour and request relevant written reports.
2. Assess and buy horses.
- 2.1. Assess horses against identified program needs.
 - 2.2. Test horses extensively prior to acquisition according to organisational policies and procedures.
 - 2.3. Assess behaviour patterns of horses to confirm best fit with program needs.
 - 2.4. Confirm health of animals according to organisational policies and procedures.
 - 2.5. Purchase horses and complete appropriate documentation according to organisational procedures.
3. Assess education needs of horses and design program.
- 3.1. Identify required horse behaviour that meets identified program needs.
 - 3.2. Identify unwanted and unsafe behaviour patterns of individual horses.
 - 3.3. Assess individual education needs of horses in consultation with relevant personnel.
 - 3.4. Design and document education program to ensure horse suitability for program and safety of clients.
4. Educate horses for sport or recreational activities.
- 4.1. Use safe practices and follow organisational safety and emergency response procedures throughout activities to avoid injury to self, others and horse.
 - 4.2. Implement education techniques suitable to equine cognition, learning ability and natural behaviour.
 - 4.3. Habituate horses to tack and equipment used in program.
 - 4.4. Habituate horses to respond to a range of handlers and riders with different skill levels and characteristics.
 - 4.5. Acclimatise horses to the range of environments where activities are offered.
 - 4.6. Educate horses to negotiate the variety of terrain and obstacles covered by program.

- 4.7. Educate horses to program specific activities, exercises or disciplines.
- 4.8. Use practices, according to animal welfare guidelines, to minimise or eliminate unwanted and unsafe behaviours.
5. Evaluate horse education.
- 5.1. Evaluate and record progress or continuing issues throughout all phases of education program, according to organisational procedures.
- 5.2. Adjust education regime or discontinue horse education as required.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	• interpret complex and sometimes unfamiliar documents which can include: • organisational policies and procedures • purchase agreements and horse reports.
Writing skills to:	• develop and document complex horse education programs • record detailed information describing horse progress to desired behaviour.
Planning and organising skills to:	• manage own timing and productivity to source and acquire horses, test and educate them to meet organisational program schedules.
Self-management skills to:	• take responsibility for horse selection and education from initial research through to presentation of horse which matches operational and program needs.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guide -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>

Assessment Requirements for SISOEQU015 Acquire and educate horses for sport or recreational programs

Modification History

Not applicable.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- research the purchase of two different horses to meet the requirements of a sport or recreational program
- for at least one of the horses sourced, complete the following pre-purchase assessments:
 - history of horse use
 - current level of education
 - current health status
 - behaviour and temperament, via seller reports and testing
- assess the education needs of two individual horses, according to their sport or recreational role and environment
- develop individual education programs for those two horses
- educate the two horses to:
 - meet program specific behavioural requirements
 - program activities, exercises or disciplines
- during all activities, consistently use safe horse handling or riding practices and techniques
- complete the following documents for each of the two horses:
 - education program
 - horse progress and ongoing behavioural issues
 - educational outcomes.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- organisational policies and procedures for acquiring and education horses including those for safety and emergency response
- factors that affect the suitability and selection of horses for sport and recreational use:
 - purchase prices and ongoing maintenance costs
 - size
 - age and gender
 - health

- functional conformation
- sport or recreational program experience and history
- previous education
- tractability
- vices
- temperament
- methods for obtaining health checks
- pre-purchase testing techniques used to assess suitability of horses
- factors that affect the education of horses for sport and recreational use:
 - range of activities offered by the organisation
 - environments where activities are completed
 - types of terrain and obstacles covered by programs
 - characteristics of client profile including age and horse handling or riding skill level
 - tack and equipment used for different programs
- unwanted and unsafe behaviour of horses used for sport and recreational activities to include:
 - bolting
 - biting
 - rearing
 - bucking
 - kicking
 - shying
 - propensity to fight
- animal welfare based behaviour modification techniques for unwanted and unsafe behaviour of horses
- current scientific research findings on equine cognition, intelligence, ethology and learning ability and recommended education techniques
- techniques used to educate horses for program specific activities, exercises or disciplines
- format and contents of documents which record:
 - purchase arrangements
 - education programs
 - horse progress and ongoing behavioural issues
 - education outcomes.

Assessment Conditions

Skills can be demonstrated in any indoor or outdoor environment where horses are tested and educated for sport or recreational purposes.

Horse matching prior to all assessments involving horse interaction is essential. Assessors must:

- complete, participate in or validate a risk assessment of the candidate's characteristics and level of horse handling or riding skills
- match, or validate the matching of, horses of suitable history, size and temperament to the candidate to ensure that handler or rider and horse combination is safe.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- horses matched to the candidate as above; these can be:
 - calm, consistent and obedient horses; or
 - compliant and manageable horses
- tack to include:
 - halters
 - leads
 - saddles
 - saddle cloths
 - bridles
 - reins
 - bits
 - stirrups with safety features
- personal protective equipment to include:
 - riding boots
 - Australian Standard, or equivalent, compliant helmets
- sample budgets for purchasing horses
- online or hard copy information about horses for sale
- sample written reports covering history of horse use, education and behaviour
- sample purchase agreements or contracts
- templates for:
 - horse education programs
 - recording horse progress and ongoing issues
 - reporting educational outcomes
- organisational policies and procedures for acquiring and education horses including those for safety and emergency response.

Assessment must ensure access to:

- human and equine first aid equipment
- communication equipment for emergency response.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- hold a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes this unit of competency, SISOEQU015 Acquire and educate horses for sport or recreational programs, or a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes a unit of competency that has been superseded by this unit, and
- have at least three years' experience in a role involving acquiring and educating sport or recreational horses where they have applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guide -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>