

Overview

This standard is about carrying out the routine care and monitoring the health and welfare of horses. It covers the routine monitoring of horses' physical condition and behaviour, the recognition of the signs of ill-health and lameness, the nursing of sick horses and the provision of routine treatments.

The work described in this standard would be carried out following agreement with a supervisor about the responsibilities and methods of work.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of health, safety and animal welfare in connection with this activity.

You will need to be able to recognise hazards within the activity.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. carry out routine care of horses in a manner that optimizes their health and welfare
3. monitor horses' health and welfare, physical condition and behaviour at regular intervals, and report observations to the appropriate person
4. carry out specific measures to promote horses' health and welfare, according to instructions
5. seek clarification when instructions are not clear
6. assist specialists with the care of horses
7. observe horses after specific measures have been put in place and report their condition immediately to the appropriate person, this could include verbal or in writing
8. provide clear and accurate information for recording purposes
9. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse during the activity
10. maintain appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security in accordance with instructions

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. how to monitor the health and welfare of horses and recognise signs of good and ill-health
3. how to recognise a horse health emergency and when to call a supervisor
4. how to provide routine preventative measures including parasite control
5. how to recognise a lame horse and carry out basic treatments
6. how to recognise and treat minor ailments
7. how to recognise dehydration in horses
8. the basic anatomy and physiology of a horse, including the digestive and skeletal systems
9. general horse welfare concerns
10. the limits of your responsibility and to whom difficulties should be reported
11. risks to horses, yourself and others, and how these can be minimized
12. the records that need to be maintained when caring for and monitoring the health and welfare of horses
13. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
14. the importance of hygiene and bio-security to the welfare of horses, and how this can be achieved.

Glossary

Minor ailments such as:

- girth galls
- cracked heels

Basic treatments for lame horse such as:

- cold hosing
- tubbing

Specialists:

- veterinary surgeon
- equine dental technician
- farrier/hoof trimmer

Preventative measures:

- worming
- vaccination
- foot care

General welfare concerns:

- disease
- disability
- pest infestation
- trauma

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Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	2
Date Approved	January 2017
Indicative Review Date	January 2021
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANEq203
Relevant Occupations	Equine Assistant
Suite	Equine
Keywords	equine; horse; lameness; animal health and welfare;
