

Overview

This standard is about promoting the health and wellbeing of horses by providing the environment and routine treatments that ensure that the horse remains healthy and content. It also involves the recognition and treatment of health problems and minor ailments. This standard applies to all types of horses.

This standard involves caring for horses so that the risk of injury and illness is minimised, it covers being able to recognise and respond to signs of ill health, as well as knowing when to summon professional help.

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

You will need to be able to recognise hazards and assess risks in the workplace.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity
2. handle and restrain the horse in a manner that does not compromise animal welfare, avoids behaviour giving rise to welfare concern and maintains health and safety
3. treat horses in a manner that minimises any likelihood of stress,
4. and promotes their health and well-being in accordance with current good practice and legislation
5. provide a suitable environment and routine treatments to promote the health and wellbeing of the horse
6. monitor a horse's physical condition and behaviour effectively
7. take and record the temperature, pulse and respiration of the horse accurately and communicate to the appropriate person
8. recognise any abnormal signs and take the appropriate action
9. ensure appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security are maintained
10. keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
11. monitor and maintain the health and safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. the importance to the safety of the handler and the horse of using appropriate handling and restraint techniques and minimising stress levels
3. how to promote the health and wellbeing of horses and minimise the stress and injury caused to them
4. first aid procedures, the treatment of horses and your responsibility under relevant animal welfare legislation
5. why horses need exercise and the exercise requirements for different types of activity
6. signs of good and poor health in relation to the horse's appearance, posture and movement, behaviour, and body function
7. the actions to take when signs of poor health are recognised
8. how to remove a damaged shoe safely without causing damage to the horse's foot
9. how to recognise a horse health emergency and when to call the vet
10. the requirements of health and treatment records and why they exist
11. the management of a horse following a particular treatment or procedure
12. the procedures for isolation and when this would be required
13. the procedures for sick nursing including hygiene and bio-security
14. the conformation of the horse and its relationship to movement and action
15. the basic anatomy and physiology of the horse including the skeletal, muscular, circulatory and respiratory systems
16. the importance of evaluating the actions taken when dealing with any problems with the health and well-being of horses
17. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
18. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

Scope/range

Monitor the following aspects of physical condition and behaviour:

- appearance
- posture and movement
- behaviour
- body function
- signs of health

Glossary

Common health problems in horses:

- colic
- azoturia
- RAO
- strangles
- equine influenza
- laminitis
- ringworm
- foot abscess
- mud fever
- wounds and other injuries
- splints
- rain scald
- sweet itch
- dehydration
- tress
- Equine Cushing's disease - (PPID)
- grass sickness
- atypical myopathy
- lameness
- melanomas
- sarcoids
- tetanus
- botulism
- worm burden

Promote the health and wellbeing of horses

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