

Assist the veterinarian with equine consultations and surgery

Level 3

Credits 15

Purpose People credited with this unit standard are able to: assist the veterinarian with consultations involving horses; assist the veterinarian with common equine surgical procedures; describe gestation and pre and post-parturient obstetrical conditions, assist the veterinarian during parturition, and carry out neonatal nursing; assist the veterinarian with equine radiography; and respond to requests for advice.

Subfield Animal Care and Handling

Domain Veterinary Nursing

Status Registered

Status date 26 July 2005

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Entry information Prerequisites: Unit 5152, *Monitor health and provide husbandry for horses*; and Unit 5178, *Assist to take radiographs of animals, and process*; or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.

Accreditation Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA, industry and teaching professional in the same field from another provider.

Standard setting body (SSB) Agriculture Industry Training Organisation

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0228

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Special notes

- 1 For credit, evidence must be in accordance with the statutory and industry requirements contained in the following documents.
Relevant and current National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Welfare and Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards, available at <http://www.maf.govt.nz>, under animal welfare.

Relevant New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) standards, available from NZVA, PO Box 11-212, Manners Street, Wellington (<http://www.vets.org.nz>) including the current versions of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*); and BESTPRACTICE™ *Standards for Large Animal Practice Module*.

Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.

- 2 *In-house procedures* refer to the documented policies and procedures for animal care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer, consistent with NZVA BESTPRACTICE™ standards.

Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Assist the veterinarian with consultations involving horses.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Horse is caught and restrained in a manner which causes minimum stress to the horse and avoids injury to people or further injury to horse, to enable the veterinarian to administer medication.
- Range twitch, hobbles, leg hold, halter and rope.
- 1.2 Medication is administered as directed by the veterinarian with minimum stress to the horse.
- Range includes but is not limited to – subcutaneous injection, intramuscular injection, oral paste or liquid, topical application to eye, topical application to skin, granules in feed.
- 1.3 Ongoing nursing procedures are carried out as directed by the veterinarian.
- Range dressing, bandaging, checking vital signs (respiration, pulse, temperature, colour and hydration of mucous membranes, capillary refill), hosing, physical therapy.

Element 2

Assist the veterinarian with common equine surgical procedures.

Range evidence of assistance with at least three different procedures is required.

Performance criteria

2.1 Assistance is provided during surgical procedures, maintaining sterility and a clear surgical field, and as directed by the veterinarian.

Range may include but is not limited to – restraining animal, positioning animal, passing instruments and equipment, holding instruments, counting instruments, handling laboratory materials.

2.2 Assistance with local anaesthetic techniques associated with surgical procedures is provided, as directed by the veterinarian.

2.3 Assistance is provided in post-operative management of the horse as directed by the veterinarian.

2.4 Common post-operative complications are described in terms of their signs.

Range wound breakdown, infection, pressure sores, proud flesh, patient interference.

Element 3

Describe gestation and pre and post-parturient obstetrical conditions, assist the veterinarian during parturition, and carry out neonatal nursing.

Performance criteria

3.1 Gestation and normal parturition are described in terms of their stages.

3.2 Situations and conditions requiring veterinary assistance are described in terms of gestation, during and post-parturition, and neo-natal conditions.

Range includes but is not limited to – malpresentation, obstructive dystocia (foetal, maternal), uterine inertia, metabolic problems, need for neonatal resuscitation.

3.3 Assistance is provided to the veterinarian during parturition, as directed.

3.4 Routine management of neonate and post-foaling mare is carried out, as directed by the veterinarian, to ensure optimum health.

Range umbilical cord, retained foetal membranes, prophylactic injections, monitoring feeding, nutrition of mare, nutrition of neonate, assisted or replacement/supplement feeding.

3.5 Abnormal health and behaviour of the neonate is described in terms of the need for nursing care or summoning the veterinarian.

Range movement, suckling, defecation, faecal consistency, drinking, feeding.

Element 4

Assist the veterinarian with equine radiography.

Performance criteria

4.1 Positions of plate and special requirements are identified according to the type of radiographic examination.

4.2 Assistance is provided, as directed by the veterinarian, in a manner which is safe for both humans and horses.

Range holding plates, setting and calculating exposure factors.

Element 5

Respond to requests for advice.

Performance criteria

5.1 General enquiries are assessed to determine the most suitable person to deal with them.

5.2 Advice given is provided clearly and courteously, is accurate, and is within own capability and according to in-house procedures.

Range may include but is not limited to – vaccination schedules, parasite control, pregnancy management, post-surgical care, care of dressings, signs of imminent foaling, care of new born foal and post-foaling mare.

5.3 Need for referral to a specialist is assessed in accordance with in-house procedures.

Please note

Providers must be accredited by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation standards@agricultureito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.