

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of good health, ill health, common ailments, and lameness in horses		
Level	3	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of horse anatomy; describe signs of good health and ill health in horses and report suspected ill health; describe the life cycle of internal and external parasites, their effect on horse health and preventative measures; describe common horse ailments; and describe and identify lameness in horses.
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Classification	Equine > Equine Health
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definition

Workplace procedures are the documented policies and practices for safety and procedures within a particular workplace, and are consistent with veterinary guidelines and the Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys (2018) available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11003-horses-and-donkeys-code-of-welfare>.
- 3 For the purposes of assessment:
 - evidence for the practical components of this unit standard must be supplied from the workplace.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of horse anatomy.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Identify points of the horse and external body parts by name and location.
- 1.2 Describe body systems of the horse in terms of basic function.

Range circulatory, respiratory, digestive, integumentary, central nervous, muscular-skeletal, reproductive system.

Outcome 2

Describe signs of good health and ill health in horses and report suspected ill health.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe the five senses of the horse in relation to horse behaviour and handling.
- Range sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch.
- 2.2 Describe the normal range of a healthy horse's vital signs and the reasons for any irregularity in this range.
- Range pulse, respiration, temperature, capillary refill time, skin pinch test, mucous membranes.
- 2.3 Describe the appearance and behaviour of healthy horses in terms of the horse's observable signs and behaviour.
- Range includes but is not limited to – physical, mental, behavioural, stance, lameness, swellings.
- 2.4 Report any suspected ill health in horses in accordance with workplace procedures.
- Range includes but is not limited to – observations, symptoms, location of pain or inflammation, vital signs.

Outcome 3

Describe the life cycle of internal and external parasites, their effect on horse health and preventative measures.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Describe the life cycle of internal parasites in terms of their effect on the horse's health.
- Range may include but is not limited to – roundworms, redworms, bloodworms, pinworms, small strongyles, tapeworms; evidence of two is required.
- 3.2 Describe the life cycle of external parasites in terms of their effect on the horse's health.
- Range may include but is not limited to – ticks, bots, lice; evidence of three is required.

- 3.3 Identify and describe drench families in terms of their potential impact on worming programmes.
- Range includes but is not limited to – active ingredients, dose rates, worming frequency, age of horse.
- 3.4 Describe preventative measures to manage worm burden and the effect of time of year of implementation.
- Range includes but is not limited to – paddock stocking rates, pasture management, faecal egg counts; evidence of two is required.

Outcome 4

Describe common horse ailments.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe common ailments affecting a horse's skin in terms of the symptoms, and workplace procedures for treatment and prevention.
- Range may include but is not limited to – rain scald, mud fever, sunburn, ringworm, hives, melanoma, girth galls, sarcoids; evidence of three is required.
- 4.2 Describe common ailments affecting a horse's circulatory system in terms of symptoms, and workplace procedures for treatment and prevention.
- Range may include but is not limited to – anaemia, haematoma, lymphangitis, shock; evidence of two is required.
- 4.3 Describe common ailments affecting a horse's respiratory system in terms of symptoms, and workplace procedures for treatment and prevention.
- Range may include but is not limited to – strangles, equine herpes virus (EHV), cough, pneumonia, exercise-induced pulmonary haemorrhage (EIPH), equine influenza (EI), soft palate dislocation, travel sickness; evidence of two is required.
- 4.4 Describe common ailments affecting a horse's digestive system in terms of the symptoms, and workplace procedures for treatment and prevention.
- Range may include but is not limited to – colic, choke, ulcers, diarrhoea; evidence of two is required.

- 4.5 Describe common ailments affecting a horse's muscular skeletal system in terms of the symptoms, and workplace procedures for treatment and prevention.

Range may include but is not limited to – wobbler, tying up, windgalls, tendon and ligament injuries, stringhalt, kissing spin; evidence of two is required.

- 4.6 Describe common ailments affecting the mare's reproductive system in terms of the symptoms, and workplace procedures for treatment and prevention.

Range endometritis, placentitis, ovarian cysts, herpes, windsucking behind.

Outcome 5

Describe and identify lameness in horses.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Describe hoof and lower leg problems which may cause lameness in terms of their probable cause.

Range may include but is not limited to – stone bruise, punctured sole, thrush, cracked heels, pricked foot, sandcracks, corns, seedy toe, laminitis, navicular syndrome, splints, tendon injuries, curbs, windgall; evidence of four is required.

- 5.2 Identify lameness and the site of lameness by observation and palpation.

Range action, stance, heat, pain, swelling, inflammation, loss of function, symptoms, vital signs.

Planned review date	31 December 2025
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	28 October 1994	31 December 2023
Review	2	23 October 1996	31 December 2023
Review	3	24 June 1998	31 December 2023
Review	4	25 September 2003	31 December 2023
Review	5	23 April 2008	31 December 2023
Review	6	28 May 2020	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0018
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Primary ITO standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.