

41317**Care for a working farm animal**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	5
Whāinga Purpose	This standard is for people responsible for the care of a working farm animal in a farming context. They will be able to attend to an animal's needs and maintain records related to an animal under limited supervision. This skill standard may be used in qualifications and credentials for the wider agriculture sector.

Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai | Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Attend to the health, welfare and social needs of an animal.	a. Assess an animal's physical condition and behaviour at intervals appropriate to the animal and context.
	b. Maintain an animal's health through preventative health measures and responsive health interventions.
	c. Provide functional access to sufficient and appropriate food, water, exercise, rest and freedom.
	d. Provide functional access to safe and appropriate shelter.
	e. Assess an animal's social needs and provide for those needs.
2. Maintain required records relating to an animal.	a. Maintain records of health interventions.
	b. Maintain required ownership records.

Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria*Assessment specifications:*

All activities must be carried out in accordance with workplace health and safety requirements, workplace procedures, and, wherever relevant, the Code of Welfare appropriate to the species and context for which the learner is being assessed.

Providers must give due consideration to embedding ngā kaupapa (principles) o Te Tiriti o Waitangi when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard. These principles are outlined in [Guidelines for Providers: Embedding Tirohanga Māori](#).

Providers must give due consideration to the needs and values of Pacific peoples and other cultural groups when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard, ensuring practices are inclusive and equitable.

Ākonga/learners should be assessed against this standard in a real-life context using naturally occurring evidence. A verifier's checklist with appropriate comments confirming competency is acceptable if accompanied by evidence that includes examples from the learner's performance.

Ākonga/learners are expected to work with one species (either dogs or horses) for the duration of assessment.

In assessing the animal's physical condition and behaviour, ākonga/learners must monitor the animal at intervals appropriate to the task, duration, and environmental conditions. Evidence must show that monitoring is frequent enough to detect signs of fatigue, stress, injury, or reduced performance, and that appropriate action is taken to prevent the animal being overworked, overtrained, or placed at risk of harm. Signs may include changes in gait, responsiveness, breathing, posture, body condition, or behaviour.

Evidence requirement

Ākonga/learners working with dogs must comply with registration and local council requirements for their dogs and their context.

Definitions

Animal refers to working dogs and working horses in a pastoral farming context. The animal may be trained or partially trained; there is no expectation that the learner/ākonga must train the animal from scratch.

Freedom refers to lack of physical restraint or enclosure in a safe area for the purposes of enrichment, allowing the animal to express natural behaviours, typically on a daily basis.

Functional access refers to the accessibility of a resource, and to the quality and quantity of that resource.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Health, social and welfare needs

- normal and abnormal behaviour and condition, and importance of recognising change in behaviour or condition, fitness for work.
- behaviour related to reproductive cycles.
- exercise and rest requirements when not working.
- preventative health interventions, e.g. vaccinations, parasite control (internal and external), mineral supplementation, joint care, grooming, hoof trimming/shoeing, dental health.
- responsive health interventions, e.g. for illness and injury.
- life stage and support, including requirements for young animals and for aging animals, feeding requirements, retirement process.
- responsible and humane decision-making related to euthanasia.

- appropriate food and feeding, e.g. nutritionally adequate feed, avoiding feeding raw offal or untreated meat that may transmit parasites to dogs, managing feeding timing and quantity to reduce digestive disorders (e.g. colic, twisted bowel).
- access to clean water.
- clean, dry, well-ventilated and safe housing, shelter and/or paddocking.
- social needs of animals, e.g. interacting with other animals, risk of intimidation, avoiding social isolation, interacting with humans.
- protective equipment for the animal, e.g. coats/covers, foot/leg protection, weather protection.

Maintaining records

- treatment records for preventative and responsive health interventions.
- ownership records, e.g. micro-chipping, registration, re-registration requirements, local council requirements.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#).
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#).
- [Animal Welfare \(Care and Procedures\) Regulations 2018](#).
- [Code of Welfare – Dogs](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare – Horses and Donkeys](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- [Code of Welfare – Transport within New Zealand](#) (Ministry for Primary Industries).
- Farm-specific Standard Operating Procedures.

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Agriculture > Farming Skills
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	0052

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhītatanga Registration	1	28 May 2026	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	This skill standard and skill standard 41318 replaced unit standards 575, 19110 and 19111.		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2031		

Please contact the Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board at info@foodandfibreisb.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.