

41318**Handle and train a working farm animal**

Kaupae Level	3
Whiwhinga Credit	15
Whāinga Purpose	This standard is for people responsible for working farm animals in a farming context. They will be able to attend to work with the animal, maintain their own health and safety, and use and maintain equipment related to the animal. 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. Work with an animal.	a. Develop and maintain a human-animal bond with the animal.
	b. Select work appropriate to the animal according to its ability and the working context.
	c. Maintain consistent training and fitness.
	d. Perform livestock-related tasks with the animal.
	e. Protect the working animal and any other animals from harm.
	f. Provide functional access to sufficient and appropriate food, water and rest when working.
	g. Transport the animal in a way that keeps it safe and meets its welfare needs.
2. Maintain health and safety of self and others when engaging with an animal.	a. Maintain awareness of and mitigate risks associated with animal behaviour.
	b. Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hygiene to mitigate health and safety risks.
	c. Maintain control of the animal when working.

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
3. Use and maintain equipment for an animal.	a. Select equipment appropriate to the animal and context.
	b. Check the equipment is in good working order and maintain it appropriately.
	c. Fit equipment correctly.

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.

Definitions

Animal refers to working dogs and/or 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.

Human-animal bond refers to a strong, dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship built on trust, companionship, emotional support and shared experiences, where both the human and the animal receive psychological, physical and emotional benefits.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Working conditions

- awareness of effect of animal on livestock, e.g. predator vs prey animal dynamic, selecting right animal for the job/context, mitigating risks, importance of training.
- awareness of environmental stressors on animal, e.g. loud noises, traffic.
- developing trusting relationship through clear communication, and calm and predictable behaviour, fear-free training, positive reinforcement, consistent training and working practices.
- livestock-related tasks using the animal, e.g. herding, mustering, separating and moving, protection.

- potential harm to and by working animal, e.g. nipping the worked animals, risk from and to feral animals, worked animals attacking the working animal.
- avoiding overwork and overtraining.
- welfare requirements appropriate to working conditions, e.g. temperature, terrain, livestock class, weather conditions.
- restraint or tethering (physical or through instruction).
- safe and appropriate conditions for transport.

Health and safety

- behavioural risks, e.g. risks related to changes in behaviour related to reproductive cycle, to proximity of other animals or livestock, or injury or illness.
- physical risks, e.g. crush injury, fall from height, biting, kicking.
- zoonoses, e.g., ringworm, mud fever/rain scald, salmonella, leptospirosis, campylobacter, cryptosporidiosis, rabies.
- PPE and hygiene.
- fall and injury prevention, e.g. flight zones, proximity awareness, escape routes.

Working equipment

- equipment used for handling, working, transport and care, e.g. tack, harnesses, leads, collars, muzzles, grooming equipment, tethers, kennels, dog-box transport.
- protective equipment for the animal, e.g. coats/covers, foot/leg protection, sun protection.
- selecting correct equipment for the job.
- checking equipment for wear and other signs of poor working condition.
- maintaining or replacing worn or faulty equipment.

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 Kouna | 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
Rēhitatanga Registration	1	28 May 2026	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	This skill standard and skill standard 41317 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@foodandfibresb.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.