Care for a sick foal and demonstrate knowledge of fostering and caring for an orphan foal

Level 4  
Credits 5  

Purpose  People credited with this unit standard are able to: care for a sick foal and monitor mare’s well-being; investigate the options for fostering an orphan foal; demonstrate knowledge of hand feeding and weaning an orphan foal; and demonstrate knowledge of methods to maintain the health status of an orphan foal.

Subfield  Equine  
Domain  Equine Husbandry  
Status  Registered  
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Accreditation  Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.  
Standard setting body (SSB)  Primary Industry Training Organisation  

Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference 0018  
This AMAP can be accessed at http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do.

Special notes

1  Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and its subsequent amendments.

2  *Stable procedures* are the documented practices and policies required within a particular workplace, and do not contravene the *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for Welfare of Horses* (Wellington: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 1993); or available at http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/horses/index.htm

3  For this unit standard the practical assessment evidence must be provided in the context of a commercial business operation under normal working conditions.
Elements and performance criteria

Element 1

Care for a sick foal and monitor mare’s well-being.

Performance criteria

1.1 Foal’s health is monitored and recorded according to stable procedures.
   Range may include but is not limited to - time spent nursing, temperature, respiratory rate, heart rate, passing meconium, urinating, standing.

1.2 Medication is administered to the foal as directed by the veterinarian and according to stable procedures.
   Range may include but is not limited to - enema, tetanus injection, antibiotics, specific medication.

1.3 Facilities and apparatus are kept clean and hygienic according to stable procedures.
   Range may include but is not limited to - waterbed, paper bedding, teats, bottles.

1.4 Mare and foal are fed according to health requirements and stable procedures.

1.5 Mare’s health and well-being are monitored and action taken according to stable procedures.
   Range may include but is not limited to - passing placenta, colic.

Element 2

Investigate the options for fostering an orphan foal.

Performance criteria

2.1 Investigation identifies options for fostering an orphan foal in terms of time and cost effectiveness of options available.

2.2 Investigation identifies methods available for locating a foster mother.
   Range breed society, other breeders, advertising, foster foal services.

2.3 Investigation identifies methods used to encourage the bonding process between foster mare and orphan foal.
   Range may include but is not limited to – disguise smell, restrain to allow foal to drink, twitch mare, sedate mare, use skin of dead foal.
Element 3

Demonstrate knowledge of hand feeding and weaning an orphan foal.

Performance criteria

3.1 Description identifies types of milk formulations available and compares their nutritional value.

Range cow's milk, goat's milk, milk replacer.

3.2 A feeding schedule is formulated in accordance with body weight of orphan foal.

Range amount, timing, frequency.

3.3 The process to wean foal from bottle to self feeding from bucket is described.

3.4 A balanced supplementary feed is formulated for an orphan foal which would facilitate the weaning process from milk.

3.5 Special precautions to be taken when for caring for orphan foals are outlined.

Range may include but is not limited to - availability of colostrum, companionship, handling not spoiling, education, prevent development of developmental orthopaedic disease, nutritional needs and quantities.

Element 4

Demonstrate knowledge of methods to maintain the health status of an orphan foal.

Performance criteria

4.1 Routine health care for parasite control, disease control, and foot care is described in accordance with stable procedures.

4.2 Description of how orphan foal’s health is monitored, and treatment implemented, in accordance with stable procedures and the best interests of the foal.

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 Primary Industry Training Organisation standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.