

<b>Title</b>	<b>Identify, describe, and manage lower leg problems in horses, and dress the hoof wall</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	People credited with this unit standard are able to: describe the external and internal structures of the horse's foot and hoof balance; identify and describe lower leg deviations in young horses and management techniques; identify lameness, lower leg, and hoof problems in horses, and identify and administer treatment; and dress the hoof wall and attend to common foot problems in horses.
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<b>Classification</b>	Equine > Equine Health
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<b>Available grade</b>	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 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.

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### Outcomes and performance criteria

#### Outcome 1

Describe the external and internal structures of the horse's foot and hoof balance.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Describe the external structures of the horse's foot in terms of location and function.

1.2 Describe internal structures of the horse's lower leg and foot in terms of location and function.

Range bones, joints, cartilages, tendons, ligaments.

1.3 Describe features of a balanced hoof and its associated benefits.

Range hoof-pastern axis, dorso-palmar balance, medio-lateral foot balance, pair symmetry, ground symmetry;  
benefits may include but are not limited to – soundness, minimising risk of injury, maximising performance;  
evidence of three benefits is required.

## Outcome 2

Identify and describe lower leg deviations in young horses and management techniques.

### Performance criteria

2.1 Identify lower leg deviations in young horses.

Range evidence of four deviations is required.

2.2 Describe techniques to manage lower leg deviations in young horses.

Range medial extensions, therapeutic trimming, surgical correction, box rest, monitor current condition, splinting, extra corporeal shockwave treatment;  
evidence of four is required.

## Outcome 3

Identify lameness, lower leg, and hoof problems in horses, and identify and administer treatment.

### Performance criteria

3.1 Identify lameness in horses in terms of the symptoms and the site of lameness.

Range action, stance, loss of function, inflammation, vital signs;  
observations may be at walk or trot;  
symptoms at site of lameness may include – heat, pain, inflammation.

3.2 Identify and report hoof and lower leg problems and administer treatment in consultation with professionals.

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, windgalls;  
evidence of six is required.

**Outcome 4**

Dress the hoof wall and attend to common foot problems in horses.

Range evidence from any class of adult horse including broodmares.

**Performance criteria**

- 4.1 Apply safe handling practices for horse, handler and self when handling horse's feet in accordance with workplace procedures.
- 4.2 Assess feet and dress the hoof wall to remove excess growth and maintain balance of the hoof capsule when the horse is unshod in accordance with workplace procedures.
- 4.3 Identify common hoof problems in horses and take appropriate action to rectify in accordance with workplace procedures.

Range may include but is not limited to – abscess, seedy toe; evidence of one is required.

<b>Planned review date</b>	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	18 July 2008	31 December 2023
Revision	6	12 February 2010	31 December 2023
Review	7	28 May 2020	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	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](mailto:standards@primaryito.ac.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.