

Title	Identify horses' body systems, and describe and report common health problems and parasites affecting horses		
Level	3	Credits	4

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify the basic components and primary functions of horses' body systems; describe and report common health problems of horses; and describe the life cycle of internal and external parasites, their effect on horses' health, and preventative health measures for horses.
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Classification	Equine > Equine Care
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation and code of welfare relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
 - Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys 2018, available at <http://www.mpi.govt.nz>; and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definition
Workplace procedures – the procedures and standards set by the client or employing organisation. Workplace procedures should reflect current legislation.
- 3 For the purposes of assessment:
 - evidence must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.
 - assessment for the practical components of this unit standard must be supplied from a commercial horse enterprise.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Identify the basic components and primary functions of horses' body systems.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Identify the basic components of horses' five major body systems.
- 1.2 Identify the primary functions of horses' five major body systems.

Outcome 2

Describe and report common health problems of horses.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe symptoms, causes, and treatment of problems affecting a horse's digestive system.
- Range may include but is not limited to – colic, parasites, diarrhoea, and constipation, ulcers;
evidence of four is required.
- 2.2 Describe symptoms, causes, and treatment of problems affecting a horse's respiratory system.
- Range may include but is not limited to – viruses, pneumonia, roaring, and exercise induced pulmonary haemorrhage (EIPH), travel sickness, recurrent airway obstruction (RAO)/heaves;
evidence of four is required.
- 2.3 Describe symptoms, causes, and treatment of problems affecting a horse's circulatory system.
- Range may include but is not limited to – anaemia, dehydration, cardiac arrhythmia, aorta aneurysm, septicaemia;
evidence of three is required.
- 2.4 Describe symptoms, causes, and treatment of common skin problems affecting horses.
- Range may include but is not limited to – cracked heels, mud fever, ringworm, rain scald, hives;
evidence of three is required.
- 2.5 Describe symptoms, causes, and treatment of common muscular skeletal problems in horses.
- Range may include but is not limited to – shin sore, fractures, splints/bowed or strained tendons, suspensory ligament, windgalls;
evidence of four is required.
- 2.6 Describe symptoms, causes, and treatment of common bacterial diseases in horses.
- Range may include but is not limited to – tetanus, strangles, salmonella;
evidence of three is required.
- 2.7 Report health problems of horses in training to the supervisor.

Outcome 3

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

Performance criteria

3.1 Describe the life cycles of significant internal and external parasites, and their effect on the horses' health and body systems.

Range evidence of two internal and two external parasites is required.

3.2 Describe the use of common drench families and their potential contribution to worm resistance.

3.3 Describe control measures for internal and external parasites.

Range drench – types, family, time of year, dose rates, pasture management; faecal egg count.

Planned review date	31 December 2026
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	15 October 2015	31 December 2023
Revision	2	23 May 2019	31 December 2023
Review	3	25 November 2021	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 Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.