

Title	Monitor foal development and mare and foal behaviour, feed, handle and wean foals, and document pedigree		
Level	4	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: monitor foal development and mare and foal behaviour; group compatible mares and foals and provide supplementary feed for the foal; teach a foal to accept a halter, lead, and obey commands prior to weaning; handle and wean foals and document foal pedigree.
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Classification	Equine > Equine Care
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Available grade	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.
 - evidence all outcomes must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.
 - evidence is required for the period from 24 hours post-foaling to weaning.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Monitor foal development and mare and foal behaviour.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Monitor weight, conformation and skeletal development of the foal, and implement actions required to address any abnormalities.
- Range includes but is not limited to identification of any – limb deformities, osteochondrosis dissecans (OCD), joint changes.
actions may include – hoof care, corrective trimming, veterinary intervention.
- 1.2 Monitor the foal after 24 hours of age for any general health problems and implement actions to address any problems.
- Range includes but is not limited to – infectious disease, persistent urachus, umbilical hernia, haemolytic disease, foal heat scours, colic, reluctance to nurse, dummy foal syndrome.
- 1.3 Monitor the behaviour of mare and foal.
- Range includes but is not limited to – foal following mare, mare not running foal around, bullying, tail chewing, herd behaviour, eating and/or sharing and interest in hard feed.

Outcome 2

Group compatible mares and foals and provide supplementary feed for the foal.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Group mares and foals into compatible groupings.
- Range includes but is not limited to foal – age, sex, size, potential weaning age.
- 2.2 Determine the suitability of feeding method and provide supplementary feed to foals to achieve maximum balance of growth and health for mare and foal.
- Range methods include but are not limited to – creep feed, feed bins; supplementary feed may include but is not limited to – hard feed, balancer nuts, extra roughage, supplements.

Outcome 3

Teach a foal to accept a halter, lead, and obey commands prior to weaning.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Handle the foal to encourage the foal to remain calm when approached, and calmly restrain in a well-fitting halter.

3.2 Teach a foal to obey commands while restrained in a halter.

Range may include but is not limited to – walk, halt, turn, walk through gates, walk into stable, walk into crush, lift feet; evidence of four is required.

3.3 Implement methods to encourage an unresponsive foal to lead.

Range may include but is not limited to – bum rope, tail rope, helper, use of mare or nanny as a lead; evidence of two is required.

Outcome 4

Handle and wean foals and document foal pedigree.

Performance criteria

4.1 Handle a foal to minimise stress during the weaning process.

Range includes but is not limited to – desensitisation, leading, tying up, cover, picking up feet, used to being in a stable.

4.2 Demonstrate knowledge of weaning methods and wean foals using a method suitable for foals and the workplace.

Range includes but is not limited to – one foal only, group weaning into stables, paddock weaning by removing mares, gradual weaning.

4.3 Complete foal identity and parentage in accordance with relevant breed society requirements.

Range may include but is not limited to – brand, hair sampling, micro chipping, blood typing, physical description, markings.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 1637.
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Planned review date	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 May 2020	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 the Primary ITO standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.