

Title	Assist to foal a mare and provide post-foaling care for the foal		
Level	3	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: recognise the visual signs of a mare approaching foaling and monitor progress; recognise the stages of foaling, describe the foaling process and emergency situations, and provide assistance as required; describe the importance of checking the placenta and abnormal signs a mare may display post-foaling; and identify potential problems with the foal post-foaling and assist with post-foaling care.
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Classification	Equine > Equine Husbandry
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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

Post-foaling refers to the first 24 hours immediately after foaling.

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.
 - a minimum of 10 foalings is required.
 - all outcomes must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Recognise the visual signs of a mare approaching foaling and monitor progress.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Identify the physical and behavioural changes in the mare in the days approaching foaling.
- Range may include but is not limited to – change in behaviour, udder enlargement, waxing, mammary secretion, relaxed pelvic ligaments, hollow flanks, swollen vulval lips, sunken hindquarters; evidence of five is required.
- 1.2 Move the mare into designated area and check and report the mare's health status.
- Range may include but is not limited to – individual foaling paddocks, foaling box and/or barn; evidence of two is required.
health status includes but is not limited to – status of caslick.
- 1.3 Describe the procedures for checking the foaling alarm is in working order and is fitted in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- 1.4 Observe and report any weather conditions that may impact on the mare foaling and the health of the new-born foal.

Outcome 2

Recognise the stages of foaling, describe the foaling process and emergency situations, and provide assistance as required.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Identify the normal duration, signs and course of events of stage one, two and three of foaling.
- 2.2 Describe serious adverse foaling situations and action to be taken in the event of their occurrence.
- Range may include but is not limited to – timing of events is excessive, red bag foaling, active and excessive straining, incorrect foal position, mare haemorrhaging; evidence of five is required.
- 2.3 Monitor the mare during foaling, provide assistance as directed, and describe options for intervention.
- Range monitor – position of the foal, timing of events.
- 2.4 Assist with immediate post-foaling as directed and recognise and report any ill health or abnormal events.
- Range initial assessment of mare and foal, umbilical cord procedures, placenta is tied if not expelled, assessment of placenta.

2.5 Describe procedures required to assist maiden mares.

Range may include but is not limited to – introducing foal to mare, monitoring mare’s behaviour towards foal, observe foal nursing, providing supplement milk; evidence of three is required.

2.6 Maintain records of the foaling process and post foaling identification of foal.

Range may include but is not limited to – time of events, problems, treatments, weight of membranes, colostrum levels, sex, colour, sire, dam; evidence of six is required.

Outcome 3

Describe the importance of checking the placenta and abnormal signs a mare may display post-foaling.

Performance criteria

3.1 Describe the importance of checking the placenta.

3.2 Describe abnormal signs a mare may display post-foaling.

Range may include but is not limited to – colicky, sweating, increased vital signs, excessive lying down, no interest foal; evidence of four is required.

Outcome 4

Identify potential problems with the foal post-foaling and assist with routine post-foaling care.

Performance criteria

4.1 Hold the foal in a manner that restrains but causes minimum stress.

4.2 Assist with routine post-foaling care and administer post-foaling treatments.

Range may include but is not limited to – navel spraying, monitor passing of meconium, observe urinating; administer enema, administer vaccinations, provide oral medications and/or supplements; evidence of five is required.

- 4.3 Describe the importance of colostrum to the foal immediately post-foaling and the situations where colostrum supplementation is required.

Range may include but is not limited to – IgG (Immunoglobulin G) levels, amount and timing of first drink, immunity, Rh (neo natal isoerythrolysis) foals; evidence of three is required.

- 4.4 Recognise abnormal and/or emergency conditions in a foal immediately post-foaling.

Range may include but is not limited to – retained meconium, dummy foal, respiratory distress, failing to nurse and stand properly; evidence of two is required.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 1640.
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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.