

Title	Manage mares approaching foaling, foal a mare, and attend to post-foaling activities		
Level	4	Credits	8

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: group mares into compatible mobs and separate as foaling approaches; describe foaling problems, monitor foaling and provide assistance to the mare as required; assess and monitor health of new-born foal, describe the importance of colostrum, and complete documentation; monitor and attend to post-foaling care of the mare for the first 24 hours, and describe abnormal or emergency conditions.
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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

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 for all outcomes must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Group mares into compatible mobs and separate as foaling approaches.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Group pregnant mares in accordance with compatibility and similar foaling dates and move to the foaling paddock.

- 1.2 Demonstrate knowledge of the management of mares that have slipped and possible causes.
- Range causes include but are not limited to – necropsy of aborted foetus, retained placentas, placentitis.
- 1.3 Assign an individual foaling paddock to mares showing the signs of first stage foaling.
- Range clean, fresh grass, safe, observable 24 hours per day.
- 1.4 Maintain records of mares who are approaching foaling.

Outcome 2

Describe foaling problems, monitor foaling and provide assistance to the mare as required.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe problems that can occur at each stage of foaling in terms of the signs and possible course of action that is best for the mare.
- Range running colostrum, uterine inertia, oedema, colic, foal's foot through anus, premature separation of placenta, malpresentation, retained afterbirth, lack of progress.
- 2.2 Monitor stages of labour to foaling in terms of duration and presentation of the foal and assess requirement of intervention.
- 2.3 Monitor and provide assistance to the mare from birth to acceptance of the foal.
- 2.4 Examine foetal membranes (placenta) to determine complete discharge.
- 2.5 Seek veterinary assistance in the event of foetal membranes (placenta) being retained beyond the normal time.

Outcome 3

Assess and monitor health of new-born foal, describe the importance of colostrum, and complete documentation.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Examine the new-born foal to determine health status and take action in the event of ill health.
- Range health status – alert, aware, normal breathing, sight, willingness to seek and suck; urination, normal umbilical stump, colour of mucous membranes, passing meconium; entropion check.

- 3.2 Administer routine care to the foal immediately post-foaling.
- Range may include but is not limited to – antibiotics, tetanus, selenium, vitamin E, navel spray, enema; evidence of five is required.
- 3.3 Identify any abnormal and/or emergency conditions in a foal post-foaling and describe the course of action.
- Range includes but is not limited to – retained meconium, dummy foal, respiratory distress, failing to nurse properly, cleft palate, neonatal isoerythrolysis, jaundice, haemolytic disease, joint ill, hernias, conformation defects, down on bumpers, knock kneed, windswept, contracted tendons; undershot or overshot jaw, limb abnormalities; evidence of four is required.
- 3.4 Describe the importance of sufficient quality and quantity of colostrum for the foal immediately post-foaling and reasons why adequate levels of colostrum may not be obtained.
- Range immunoglobulin G (IgG) levels, immunity, timing of first drink.
- 3.5 Complete documentation for the new-born foal.
- Range may include but is not limited to – time of event, problems, treatments, weight, IgG levels in milk; foaling return – sex, colour, markings, sire, dam; evidence of five is required.

Outcome 4

Monitor and attend to post-foaling care of the mare for the first 24 hours and describe abnormal or emergency conditions.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Check the mare's external reproductive organs for damage incurred while foaling and take action in the event of obvious damage.
- 4.2 Describe any abnormal or emergency conditions in a mare post-foaling in terms of the immediate actions required.
- Range includes but is not limited to – impaction, internal or external haemorrhage, uterine prolapse, uterine rupture, rupture of the colon, perineal lacerations, retained placenta; evidence of four is required.
- 4.3 Wash the mare to remove birth fluids and foreign matter.
- Range vulva, udder, hindquarters.

- 4.4 Check teats to ensure they will enable the foal to drink and take action in the event of abnormalities.
- 4.5 Monitor the mare to ensure acceptance of the foal, bonding behaviour, and that mare is allowing the foal to nurse on both sides.
- 4.6 Monitor the mare and foal to identify and implement procedures to prevent mis mothering.
- 4.7 Monitor the mare for any health problems and take action which is in the best interests of the mare and foal.

Range may include but is not limited to – haematoma post foaling, willingness to move around, insufficient milk, mastitis, vital signs monitored.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 1642.
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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.