

## Monitor health and provide husbandry for horses

**Level** 2

**Credits** 5

**Purpose** People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify horses; handle a horse safely for routine activities; feed, water, and groom a horse; describe indications of health and ill health in horses, and appropriate responses; carry out routine health procedures for a horse; and describe and maintain optimal environment for horses, according to the relevant NAWAC code.

**Subfield** Animal Care and Handling

**Domain** Animal Care

**Status** Registered

**Status date** 26 July 2005

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**Entry information** Open.

**Accreditation** Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

**Standard setting body (SSB)** Primary Industry Training Organisation

**Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP) reference** 0228

This AMAP can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

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## Special notes

- 1 For credit, evidence must be in accordance with the statutory and industry requirements contained in the following documents.  
Relevant and current National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Welfare and Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards, available at <http://www.maf.govt.nz>, under animal welfare.  
Relevant New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) standards, available from NZVA, PO Box 11-212, Manners Street, Wellington (<http://www.vets.org.nz>) including the current versions of *Standard Procedures for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care* (referred to in this unit standard as *standard procedures*).  
New Zealand Standard NZS 4304:2002 *Management of Healthcare Waste*.  
Animal Welfare Act 1999, Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Practical evidence requirements, especially those relating to feeding, watering, grooming and stable maintenance, must include evidence of ongoing animal care. For this unit standard, the candidate is expected to be involved in the care of a horse over the course of at least two consecutive days.

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## Elements and performance criteria

### Element 1

Identify horses.

### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Horses are identified in terms of common breed and type.  

Range	includes donkey and mule, and at least two breeds from each of the following four types; race horse – for example, Thoroughbred, Standardbred; sport horse – for example, Quarterhorse, European Warmblood, Appaloosa; draught – for example, Shire, Clydesdale; pony – for example, Welsh, Shetland.
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- 1.2 At least two horses are identified in terms of age and sex, using terminology outlined in standard procedures.
- 1.3 At least two horses are distinguished from other horses of similar type in terms of individual characteristics.  

Range	characteristics may include but are not limited to – colour, height, approximate weight, identifying marks, distinguishing features, tattoo, brands, microchip.
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## Element 2

Handle a horse safely for routine activities.

### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Horse is handled safely for routine activities without injury to animal or handler and with minimum stress to the animal.
- Range catch horse; put on, fit, and remove halter; lead at walk and at trot; lift feet; release horse.
- 2.2 Procedures for handling of horses with special requirements are described in terms of safety for both handler and horse.
- Range requirements may include but are not limited to those for horses that are – young, pregnant, injured, unwell, of extra large/tall breeds, fractious, entire male.
- 2.3 Procedures for restraint of horses for the purpose of examination are described in terms of safety for both handler and horse.
- Range includes but is not limited to – confining, using a twitch, using chemical restraint.

## Element 3

Feed, water, and groom a horse.

### Performance criteria

- 3.1 Storage of food is described in terms of maintaining optimum quality.
- Range temperature, humidity, light, vermin control, contamination.
- 3.2 Horse is fed and watered according to its calorific, nutrient, and water requirements and as appropriate to its age, type, condition and lifestyle.
- 3.3 Feeding and watering equipment are maintained in a clean and hygienic state.
- 3.4 Horse receives basic grooming to maintain optimal health.
- Range head, body, hooves, tail, orifices.
- 3.5 Grooming equipment is kept clean and in good working order.

## Element 4

Describe indications of health and ill health in horses, and appropriate responses.

### Performance criteria

- 4.1 Normal health and behaviour are described in terms of their signs.
- Range movement, physical appearance, posture, appetite, general demeanour, social interaction.
- 4.2 Significant biological events in the normal life cycle of horses are described in terms of time and/or duration.
- Range weaning age, age at puberty, breeding age, oestrus cycle, gestation, longevity.
- 4.3 Signs of oestrus are described in terms of physical and behavioural changes.
- 4.4 Abnormal health and behaviour are described in terms of their signs and possible causes, and appropriate action to be taken is identified.
- Range signs include but are not limited to – movement, physical appearance, posture, appetite, general demeanour, social interaction;  
possible causes include but are not limited to – parasitism, infectious disease.
- 4.5 Situations requiring isolation of animals are identified.

## Element 5

Carry out routine health procedures for a horse.

### Performance criteria

- 5.1 Normal biological data are collected and recorded according to standard procedures.
- Range respiration, pulse, temperature, body condition.
- 5.2 Condition of the horse is assessed in terms of physical appearance.
- Range includes but is not limited to – body condition, skin, coat, eyes, mouth.
- 5.3 Routine health procedures are carried out to ensure the horse's health and welfare, according to standard procedures.
- Range may include but is not limited to – parasite control; checking teeth, skin, and hooves; oral medication; topical medication; evidence of at least four procedures is required.

- 5.4 Routine procedures requiring attention by qualified personnel are identified and described in terms of the horse's requirements.

Range includes foot care, teeth care, vaccination; may include but is not limited to – gelding, freeze branding, blood typing, pregnancy testing, physical therapy.

## Element 6

Describe and maintain optimal environment for horses, according to the relevant NAWAC code.

### Performance criteria

- 6.1 Features of ideal stable design are described in terms of horse health, welfare, and management.

Range includes but is not limited to – internal materials, internal features, ventilation and temperature control, lighting, size, safety features, security, monitoring systems.

- 6.2 Suitable bedding is provided and changed to ensure the health and welfare of the horse.

- 6.3 Stables and equipment are maintained in a clean and hygienic state according to the requirements of the animal.

- 6.4 Features of good paddock design and condition are described in terms of horse health and welfare, safety, and management.

Range includes but is not limited to – size, fencing materials, shelter, poisonous plants, pasture management, position of trough, gate placement for ease of exit, stocking rate.

- 6.5 Requirements for collection and disposal of horse wastes are described in terms of current waste management standards.

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### Please note

Providers must be accredited by NZQA, or an inter-institutional body with delegated authority for quality assurance, before they can report credits from assessment against unit standards or deliver courses of study leading to that assessment.

Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against unit standards.

Accredited providers and Industry Training Organisations assessing against unit standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those standards.

Accreditation requirements and an outline of the moderation system that applies to this standard are outlined in the Accreditation and Moderation Action Plan (AMAP). The AMAP also includes useful information about special requirements for organisations wishing to develop education and training programmes, such as minimum qualifications for tutors and assessors, and special resource requirements.

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**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Primary Industry Training Organisation [standards@primaryito.ac.nz](mailto:standards@primaryito.ac.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.