

Title	Monitor health, provide husbandry for, and handle horses		
Level	2	Credits	5

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify horses; handle a horse safely for routine activities, and describe procedures for handling horses with special requirements and restraint; feed, water, and groom a healthy horse; describe indications of health and variations to normal health and behaviour in horses, and situations requiring isolation; describe and carry out routine health procedures for a horse; and describe and maintain an optimal environment for horses.
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Classification	Animal Care and Handling > Animal Care
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

1 Legislation, standards, and codes relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to:

- Animal Welfare Act 1999;
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
- New Zealand Standard NZS 4304:2002 *Management of Healthcare Waste*, available at <https://www.standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-43042002/>;
- Relevant New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) standards, available at <https://www.nzva.org.nz/>;
- Relevant National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Welfare, available at www.mpi.govt.nz, under Animal Welfare;
- Relevant National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) guidelines at www.mpi.govt.nz under Animal Welfare; and any subsequent amendments.

2 Definitions

Animal facility refers to a facility such as an animal boarding facility, a veterinary clinic, pet shop, or animal welfare facility.

Workplace procedures refer to the documented procedures for animal care, handling, and ethical behaviour codes required by the employer of the animal facility and must be consistent with equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

3 For the purposes of assessment:

- evidence for the practical components of this unit standard must be supplied from a workplace or commercial organisation.
- evidence must be presented in accordance with workplace procedures.
- feeding, watering, grooming and stable maintenance, must include evidence of ongoing horse care.
- the candidate is expected to be involved in the care of a horse in a commercial setting over at least three days. The days are not required to be consecutive.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Identify horses.

Performance criteria

1.1 Identify horses 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.

1.2 Identify at least two horses in terms of age and sex.

1.3 Distinguish at least two horses 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;
evidence of five is required.

Outcome 2

Handle a horse safely for routine activities, and describe procedures for handling horses with special requirements and restraint.

Performance criteria

2.1 Handle a horse safely for routine activities without injury to animal or handler and with minimum stress to the animal.

Range catch; put on, fit, and remove halter; lead at walk and at trot; pick up feet; release in paddock.

- 2.2 Describe procedures for handling of horses with special requirements in terms of safety for both handler and horse.
- Range requirements include but are not limited to those for horses that are – young, pregnant, injured, unwell, of extra large or tall breeds, fractious, entire male.
- 2.3 Describe procedures for restraint of horses for the purpose of examination in terms of safety for both handler and horse.
- Range includes but is not limited to – confining, using a twitch, using chemical restraint.

Outcome 3

Feed, water, and groom a healthy horse.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Describe storage of food in terms of maintaining optimum quality.
- Range temperature, humidity, light, vermin control, contamination.
- 3.2 Feed and water a horse according to its nutrient, and water requirements and as appropriate to its age, type, condition and lifestyle.
- 3.3 Maintain feeding and watering equipment in a clean and hygienic state.
- 3.4 Groom a horse to maintain optimal health.
- Range head, body, hooves, tail, orifices.
- 3.5 Maintain grooming equipment in clean and good working order.

Outcome 4

Describe indications of health and variations to normal health and behaviour in horses, and situations requiring isolation.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe normal health and behaviour of horses in terms of the signs.
- Range movement, physical appearance, posture, appetite, general demeanour, social interaction.
- 4.2 Describe significant biological events in the normal life cycle of horses in terms of time and/or duration.
- Range weaning, puberty, breeding, oestrus cycle, gestation, longevity.
- 4.3 Describe signs of oestrus in terms of physical and behavioural changes.

4.4 Describe variations to normal health and behaviour in terms of their signs and possible causes, and appropriate action to be taken.

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 Describe situations requiring isolation of horses.

Outcome 5

Describe and carry out routine health procedures for a horse.

Performance criteria

5.1 Collect and record normal biological data.

Range temperature, pulse, respiration, body condition.

5.2 Assess condition of the horse in terms of physical appearance.

Range includes but is not limited to – body condition, skin, coat, eyes, mouth.

5.3 Carry out routine health procedures to maintain the horse's health and welfare.

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 Describe routine procedures to maintain the horse's health and welfare requiring attention by qualified personnel.

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

Outcome 6

Describe and maintain an optimal environment for horses.

Performance criteria

- 6.1 Describe features of ideal stable design in terms of maintaining horse health, welfare, and ease of 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 Provide suitable bedding and change to maintain optimum health and welfare of the horse.
- 6.3 Maintain stables and equipment in a clean and hygienic state.
- 6.4 Describe features of good paddock design and condition in terms of maintaining optimum horse health and welfare, safety, and management.
- Range includes but is not limited to – size, fencing materials, shelter, removal of poisonous plants, pasture management, position of trough, gate placement for ease of exit, stocking rate.
- 6.5 Describe requirements for collection and disposal of horse wastes in accordance with waste management standards.

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	8 August 1996	31 December 2022
Revision	2	16 December 1996	31 December 2022
Revision	3	16 November 1998	31 December 2022
Revision	4	7 June 2000	31 December 2022
Review	5	23 October 2002	31 December 2022
Review	6	26 July 2005	31 December 2022
Revision	7	25 June 2007	31 December 2022
Review	8	26 August 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0228
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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 Industry Training Organisation standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.