Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 5.0. |

| ACMEQD4X7 | Conduct assessment of equine masticatory system and plan dental treatment |
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| Application | This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to assess the equine masticatory system and plan dental and or oral care procedures; or initiate referral procedures to a suitable practitioner where dental and or oral care is outside scope of knowledge, expertise or regulation.  The unit applies to individuals, working as equine dental practitioners, who use practical skills and knowledge to identify a range of equine dental conditions and plan equine dental treatment. They work autonomously and apply in depth, technical knowledge and skills to provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable problems.  Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety, and animal welfare legislation, regulations and codes of practice relevant to interacting with horses apply to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and jurisdictions.  State/territory veterinary practice legislation, restricted acts of veterinary science and poisons legislation apply to the scope of work of equine dental technicians. These vary according to jurisdictions. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Equine Dentistry (EQD) |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Conduct pre-examination procedures | 1.1 Evaluate equine health, injury and use in previous history records  1.2 Conduct and document a basic assessment of equine condition  1.3 Identify features of head and neck anatomy and assess their general condition, heart rate, temperature, capillary refill times and mucosa colour  1.4 Assess and evaluate equine behaviour and response to general handling |
| 2. Prepare to carry out oral and dental examination | 2.1 Assess potential risks and safety considerations for equine and handlers in performing an oral inspection and apply safety procedures and risk controls  2.2 Carry out hygiene and infection controls in preparation for examination  2.3 Determine need for sedation to carry out a thorough and complete examination of oral cavity considering health and safety, and animal welfare, safety and comfort  2.4 Where sedation is determined to be necessary, refer to a registered veterinarian, or where relevant state/territory legislation allows seek authorisation to sedate, or advise client to source sedation from their veterinarian  2.5 Administer sedation safely, if required, according to registered veterinarian dispensing instructions and state/territory legislative requirements  2.6 Position, secure and support equine as required  2.7 Assist attending veterinarian during sedation administration, dental diagnostic imaging or dental surgeries as required |
| 3. Conduct oral and dental examination | 3.1 Inspect equine head for symmetry, swellings or other abnormalities using safe handling techniques  3.2 Rinse oral cavity  3.3 Assess the rostro-caudal and lateral excursion range of motion of the mandible and determine masticatory function  3.4 Inspect and assess incisors and cheek teeth for evidence of pathology and occlusion that may impact on use of speculum  3.5 Determine appropriate type of oral speculum required and fit and remove speculum  3.6 Examine oral structures by palpation and visual inspection using bright light source and appropriate instrumentation  3.7 Inspect and assess all teeth for normal and abnormal features related to position, alignment, regular and irregular dentition development, wear, and angulations |
| 4. Record post-inspection assessment and advice | 4.1 Explain examination findings clearly to owner or carer  4.2 Document results of inspection using established terminology and industry accepted dental charting system  4.3 Document dental conditions using imagery including photographs and/or video |
| 5. Prioritise dental issues | 5.1 Consider dental examination findings in conjunction with use, profile and history of equine  5.2 Rank and prioritise dental conditions found during examination based on animal welfare considerations, including health impact and equine comfort, taking into consideration time required to perform treatment |
| 6. Select dental treatment strategy | 6.1 Plan and document treatment stages and timing for services to be provided with dental health and equine welfare as a priority  6.2 Explain treatment plan and post treatment care and monitoring of the equine to the owner or carer  6.3 Confirm consent for the treatment strategy with the owner or carer |

| Foundation Skills  This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria. | |
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| Skill | Description |
| Reading | * Interpret and consolidate key information in charts and records |
| Writing | * Enter data and observations into record keeping systems accurately using current industry terminology and dental encoded systems |
| Numeracy | * Calculate ratios and volume relevant to mixing liquids and chemicals * Estimate, calculate and record routine measures relating to equine oral and dental examinations |
| Oral communication | * Use listening and questioning techniques to convey and confirm information * Use terminology and concepts appropriate for the audience |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMEQD4X7 Conduct assessment of equine masticatory system and plan dental treatment | ACMEQD404 Conduct equine oral inspection and assessment and plan equine dental treatment | Title changed  Prerequisite removed and horse safety embedded in unit TBC  Elements and performance criteria updated for clarity and industry currency  Foundation skills table and assessment requirements updated | Not equivalent |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:  <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103> |

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMEQD4X7 Conduct assessment of equine masticatory system and plan dental treatment |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has:   * conducted oral examinations of at least 10 different equines, including for each: * obtained history, assessed and documented current general condition and behaviour * checked and complied with infection control and hygiene protocols * determined need for sedation, and if required organised through legal avenues for sedation to be administered or dispensed by a veterinarian, and in jurisdictions where allowed to administer sedation followed dispensing veterinarian instructions * fitted a speculum and inspected oral cavity and dentition * used industry recognised charts to record oral condition and dentition * planned and documented dental treatment, oral care and post-care treatment for the 10 equines * interacted effectively with at least three different owners or carers, including: * reported assessments and impact of findings to owner or carer of each equine * identified an issue outside scope of practice and referred owner or carer to a registered veterinarian or other appropriate service provider on at least one occasion * explained treatment plan, post-treatment care and monitoring requirements to owner or carer. | |

| Knowledge Evidence |
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| An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:   * anatomy and physiology of equine head and oral structures including: * features of correctly formed, healthy and well-maintained equine dental and oral structures * normal and abnormal features and functions of masticatory system * key requirements of relevant state/territory legislation, regulations and codes of practice for: * veterinary practice legislation * restricted acts of veterinary science * poisons legislation and supply, possession and use of restricted and controlled substances * scope of practice and treatments requiring referral to a registered veterinarian or other appropriate service provider * recording oral and dental conditions and treatment procedures, including: * use of industry recognised terminology to describe dental conditions, position/direction, treatments, and oral features * charting systems for documenting equine dental information, * common equine dental conditions and diseases, including: * abnormalities in mandible or maxilla * soft and hard tissue swellings/formations * malocclusions; diagonal, ventral curve, dorsal curve incisors, sharp enamel points, ramps, hooks, waves, steps, excessive transverse ridge, inconsistent occlusal table angles * tartar/calculus * developmental defects, including defects in cementum, enamel, dentin, secondary dentin, tooth formation * misaligned or displaced teeth, missing teeth, supernumerary teeth * trauma; damaged bars, buccal or lingual soft tissue lesions, damage to tongue, abnormal tissue formation * gingivitis, periodontal disease * open pulp chambers on occlusal surface, seen as a developmental defect in the secondary dentin * caries; infundibular caries and peripheral cemental decay * fractured teeth * equine odontoclastic tooth resorption and hypercementosis (EOTRH) syndrome * age related infundibular wear, cupping out, senile wear to root dentine * indicators of general equine health and signs of dental conditions, including: * common illness or injuries that may impact on dental health * equine behavioural signs that may indicate dental problems * signs of equine and zoonotic infectious disease * hygiene and biosecurity procedures, including: * personal hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPE) * cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation of equipment and materials * safe biological and general waste disposal * equine infectious disease, notifiable diseases and quarantine procedures * zoonotic disease procedures * techniques and instruments used for conducting equine oral examinations, including: * suspension/support system * irrigation systems * speculums * mirrors, head lamps, explores, probes, picks, scalers * cameras and associated equipment * techniques used to safely and humanely restrain equines for dental examination, including: * physical restraints * chemical restraints/sedatives * relevant state/territory legislation covering: * supply, possession and use of restricted and controlled substances * administration of sedation to animals * equine sedation (chemical restraint), including: * categories of drugs used for sedation of equines * clinical signs and effects of sedative drugs including indications of over sedation and appropriate response * safe techniques for administering sedative drugs to equines * selection of appropriate sedative and dose for examination or treatment procedure * consideration of equine patient status – breed, age, condition, pain, pregnancy, stallions * impact of adrenalin on dosage * time to take effect and duration period * equine behaviour and responses to sedation and recovery * safe techniques and routes of administration for different situations – intravenous (IV), intramuscular (IM), oral * administration devices, including pole-operated syringes * impact and limitations of sedatives and anaesthesia * sedation reversal and risks to equine and handlers * use and requirements relating to local anaesthetic and nerve blocks * techniques to safely assist attending veterinarians during sedation administration, dental diagnostic imaging or dental surgeries * post-dental treatment monitoring and care procedures * key requirements of health and safety, including: * risk assessment and control * safe handling techniques for catching, handling, controlling and restraining equines * safe work practices, including manual handling and use of PPE * storage of drugs and chemicals * key requirements of animal welfare relevant to safe, humane and ethical care of equines. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * an equine workplace or an environment that accurately reflects performance in a real workplace setting * resources, equipment and materials: * various live equines with a range of oral care needs specified in the performance evidence, assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual * appropriate gear and restraints * dental instruments, materials and equipment for carrying out an oral inspection * PPE correctly fitted and applicable to tasks * relationships: * owners or carers as specified in the performance evidence.   The Companion Volume: User Guide: Equine Dentistry provides safety advice and detailed anatomical guidelines to be followed. These ensure current knowledge base and provide guidelines for assessment. They are provided to ensure the safety of all involved in the assessment and the welfare of equines.  Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. |

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