Modification history

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

| ACMEQU4X15 | Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to assess and evaluate the physical condition, conformation and movement of horses and/or other equines. It covers the implications of conformation on performance, development of corrective measures and recommendations for horses in relation to their intended purpose.  The unit applies to individuals who have experience working with a range of horses in senior roles within a horse establishment or in a specialist technical equine field. They work autonomously, analyse information, recommend solutions to routine and at times complex problems and convey information to others.  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.  No licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Equine (EQU) |

| 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. Determine structural features of horse musculoskeletal system | 1.1 Establish a safe area to observe and examine horses incorporating risk assessment and control measures  1.2 Observe and assess horse skeletal structure, posture and proportions  1.3 Assess size, shape and key features of the head, neck, back and hind quarters  1.4 Examine structural features of fore and hind legs, and hooves  1.5 Identify desirable and undesirable conformation characteristics  1.6 Compare horse conformation to established breed standards and features associated with various work, sport or recreational activities |
| 2. Determine horse muscling and relationship to movement and biomechanics | 2.1 Observe horse from different angles and evaluate muscling at key points  2.2 Identify location of joints, muscles, tendons and ligaments of significance to movement  2.3 Relate basic biomechanics to horse balance and movement |
| 3. Assess horse conformation and movement | 3.1 Determine the impact of age on horse growth rates and stages of development  3.2 Assess conformation of young horses and recommend options to address identified issues, if required, according to workplace and animal welfare requirements  3.3 Observe horse movement in different gaits and identify any irregularities  3.4 Assess structural differences in physical appearance and muscling between conditioned and unconditioned horses  3.5 Identify effects of overtraining, exercise and injury on musculoskeletal system |
| 4. Determine horse suitability for intended purpose or activity | 4.1 Identify intended purpose or activity planned for horse and assess suitability based on evaluation of conformation, movement and physical condition  4.2 Make recommendations to optimise horse condition and movement for intended purpose or activity  4.3 Convey information and recommendations relating to horse conformation, movement and physical condition to relevant personnel |

| 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 analyse anatomical diagrams and textual information from a variety of sources |
| Writing | * Record observations in a logical format * Use objective, industry standard terminology to describe horse conformation and movement |
| Oral communication | * Explain complex anatomical and scientific concepts using language suitable to audience to convey information and requirements * Use listening and questioning techniques to confirm understanding |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMEQU4X15  Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement | ACMPHR503 Evaluate performance horse conformation | Redesigned unit merging ACMEQU403 Relate musculoskeletal structure to horse movement and ACMPHR503 Evaluate performance horse conformation | Not equivalent |
| ACMEQU4X15  Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement | ACMEQU403 Relate musculoskeletal structure to horse movement | Redesigned unit merging ACMEQU403 Relate musculoskeletal structure to horse movement and ACMPHR503 Evaluate performance horse conformation | 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 ACMEQU4X15 Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has:   * observed and examined the physical condition, conformation and movement of at least four different horses, including: * at least one foal or young horse under two years of age * at least one horse requiring recommendations for treatment or referral to an equine service provider * at least one horse requiring recommendations for preparation for intended purpose * handled and interacted with each horse safely using low stress techniques during examinations and observations * provide a report on each horse covering: * desirable and undesirable conformational features * analysis of movement and gait * relationship of physical features to breed standard and intended purpose * recommendations for treatment or referral to an equine service provider, for at least one of the horses above * recommendations to optimise horse condition and movement for intended purpose, for at least one of the horses above. | |

| 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:   * horse musculoskeletal system, including: * bones, joints and bony landmarks * key function and features of the equine fore and hind limbs, including distal limb and hoof capsule * key muscles and their actions, origin and insertion points * location of deep and superficial muscles * location of tendons, ligaments and soft tissues * key anatomical and physiological terminology used to describe the equine musculoskeletal system * changes or impacts on horse musculoskeletal system, including: * age and growth * exercise, training and performance * ailments and injury * horse conformation, including: * techniques for analysing conformation * desirable and undesirable conformation characteristics * horse breeds, conformation characteristics and breed standards of excellence * performance horse sports requirements relevant to conformation * industry standard conformation terminology * fundamentals of biomechanics and key concepts relevant to horse movement, including: * movement of body * balance * speed and acceleration * horse gaits, including: * steps and strides * natural gaits - walk, trot, canter/lope, gallop and back * ambling or artificial gaits generally requiring training * recognition of asymmetry, uneven gait * features and strategies used in corrective action plans for conformation issues, including: * bandaging, hoof care and farriery procedures for correcting abnormal horse conformation * veterinary procedures for correcting abnormal horse conformation * workplace health and safety practices including: * risk assessment and control measures * safe handling and interactions with horses * use of personal protective equipment (PPE) * issues related to controlled and uncontrolled environments. |

| 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 represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * various live horses as specified in the performance evidence – note that young horses can be less compliant and highly reactive, and should be assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual * appropriate gear for horse and PPE for handler.   The Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training provides advice and sample templates to assist assessors with the risk assessments that should be undertaken to help ensure the safety of all involved in the assessment.  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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