Modification history

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

| ACMEQU3X6 | Provide routine care for horses |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to provide routine care for horses. It involves grooming, basic trimming, rugging, feeding, basic turnout and monitoring horse welfare.  This unit applies to individuals who apply specialised knowledge, judgement and skills to care for horses. They work under broad direction, coordinate activities and solve problems related to horse welfare. Work environments may include stables, paddocks and yards.  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 | ACMEQU2X12 Handle horses safely |
| 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. Maintain horse environment | 1.1 Determine the individual needs of a horse and arrange housing to meet these needs  1.2 Identify hazards, carry out a risk assessment and take steps to minimise risk to ensure safety of self, horse and others  1.3 Clean stables and yards, ensuring bedding is replaced and stable equipment is checked, maintained and stored according to workplace procedures  1.4 Maintain a safe environment and housing for horses according to animal welfare and workplace requirements  1.5 Document and report property and equipment maintenance issues according to workplace requirements |
| 2. Groom and rug a horse | 2.1 Identify hazards, assess and control their risk  2.2 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment (PPE) required for the task  2.3 Select and prepare required grooming equipment and products according to horse and workplace requirements  2.4 Position, tie up and groom horse using safe and low stress techniques  2.5 Identify signs of horse illness, injury or abnormal behaviour during grooming and action as required  2.6 Check horses hooves and shoes, clean and dress hooves, and report irregularities  2.7 Select and fit rugs according to horse requirements and environmental conditions  2.8 Select and fit flyveil and any other protective equipment to horse as required  2.9 Clean, store and maintain grooming tools and PPE |
| 3. Trim and tidy horse | 3.1 Select and prepare trimming equipment  3.2 Identify hazards, assess and control their risk  3.3 Restrain horse safely and brush in preparation for trimming, ensuring minimal stress and discomfort  3.4 Trim horse according to individual horse health and welfare requirements  3.5 Clean equipment during and after trimming procedure, and store according to workplace requirements |
| 4. Prepare horse for exercise | 4.1 Select and prepare horse for exercise according to stable roster  4.2 Select correct working gear and check for serviceability and suitability  4.3 Fit working gear to horse safely and adjust where required |
| 5. Complete post-exercise activities | 5.1 Cool down, hose, wash and groom horse after exercise according to horse requirements and workplace procedures  5.2 Check horse for signs of lameness, soreness, heat or swelling in legs, cuts and other signs of injury, illness and distress, and report according to workplace procedures  5.3 Remove, clean and check gear before storage or report maintenance issues |
| 6. Monitor and maintain a horse feeding program | 6.1 Maintain and clean food storage areas and water supply, and keep free of contaminants  6.2 Prepare feed and feed supplements according to individual horse feeding plan  6.3 Distribute feed and water, observe horse condition and feeding patterns and report variations  6.4 Seek dietary advice and adjust diet and feeding practices as required  6.5 Monitor feed stock and water and replenish according to workplace procedures  6.6 Monitor feed and water quality and action or report contamination and other quality issues according to workplace procedures |

| 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 textual information in workplace procedures, forms and work health and safety standards * Interpret key information in available from horse food supplement suppliers and horse dietary plans |
| Writing | * Record information accurately using industry terminology |
| Numeracy | * Estimate and calculate quantity, area, volume, temperature, ratio and percentage |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMEQU3X6 Provide routine care for horses | ACMPHR301 Care for performance horses | Redesigned unit including content from ACMPHR301 Care for performance horses and ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state  Title changed Application updated  Unit Sector changed Some Elements revised for clarity and Element 3 changed from Clip to Trim and tidy a horse  Previous Element 4 split for clarity  Performance Criteria either deleted, revised, merged or added for clarity  Foundation Skills updated Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions updated | Not equivalent |
| ACMEQU3X6 Provide routine care for horses | ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state | Redesigned unit including content from ACMPHR301 Care for performance horses and ACMHBR308 Maintain horses in a healthy state | 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 ACMEQU3X6 Provide routine care for horses |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria of this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has safely and efficiently cared for at least three different compliant and manageable performance horses that have individual needs, over a period of seven days. For each horse, the individual must have:   * identified at least three hazards, assessed and controlled their risks * selected, checked and correctly fitted personal protective equipment (PPE) * used safe and low stress horse handling techniques * maintained feed and water quantity and quality, including: * inventory and replenishment of feed supplies and supplements * identified and isolated contaminated feed * identified, reported and/or removed sources of contamination * fed according to individual horse requirement, including: * prepared hard feed, mixed feeds and provided supplements * ensured feeding bins are suitable and clean * in a stable or yard or paddock * monitored feeding and drinking patterns, horse condition and adjusted feeding plan based on dietary advice * maintained horse environments, including: * cleaned horse accommodation, stable, and yard * cleaned feed and water vessels and food handling tools and equipment * groomed, rugged and unrugged horse * trimmed and tidied horse mane, tail and bridle path according to instructions * prepared horse for work according to stable routine, including: * selected, fitted and adjusted working gear * fitted exercise boots or bandages * removed, checked, cleaned and stored working gear * provided post exercise care to horse including: * cooled down, hosed, washed and groomed * checked horse condition and responded or any abnormalities * completed horse feeding and condition records according to workplace requirements. | |

| 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:   * key features of workplace health and safety and animal welfare legislation * risk identification, assessment and minimisation processes * purpose and types of PPE for horse handling and care tasks * characteristics of horse behaviour and basic horse education * horse identification processes * horse housing requirements, including environmental, security, physical, social, emotional and mental * key features of stable and yard design and layout, including regulatory requirements for waste management and disposal * current horse industry practices for stable hygiene and basic biosecurity requirements * stable work routines and scheduling of duties * type, purpose and maintenance requirements of horse bedding and floor coverings * procedures for dealing with cast horses * procedures for cleaning and disinfecting stables, and for adding stable bedding * procedures for cleaning and sanitising areas and equipment shared by horses, including crushes, floats and vehicles * typical food and water requirements for horses based on their age, condition, activity levels and weather conditions * common horse feeds, including: * hay * chaff * grain/pellets or other forms of concentrated feed * supplements * bran * feed appetisers * horse feed and water storage requirements, including: * temperature and humidity * contamination control * vermin control * shelf life and expiration dates * common horse feeds, additives and medications (natural and manufactured) that may contain substances that prohibit participation in events * processes for identification, isolation and removal of: * contaminated feed * feed that does not meet quality requirements * effects of contaminated and poor quality feed on horse health, performance and welfare * equipment and techniques for: * washing horses * trimming horse mane, tail and bridle path * grooming * types, fitting and application of horse rugs, rug accessories, flyveils and other protective equipment * use, fitting, checking, maintaining and storing working gear for horses * post-exercise horse care * application and monitoring of horse feeding plans, including: * feed types and supplements * normal and abnormal eating and drinking behaviours and patterns * behaviour during group and individual feeding * safe practices for feeding horses in groups * workplace record keeping procedures and practices * zoonoses transferred by horses to humans, including Hendra, salmonella, ringworm, leptospirosis and cryptosporidiosis. |

| 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: * live horses specified in the performance evidence assessed as suitable for the assessment of this unit and the individual being assessed * equipment, tools, materials and supplies required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence, including cleaning stables, and feeding, grooming, washing and clipping horses * PPE and load carrying equipment * feed and supplements for selected performance horses * appropriate horse gear for the tasks specified in the performance evidence * workplace recording and reporting formats * specifications: * workplace procedures, schedules and specifications for the tasks specified in the performance evidence.   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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