Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0. |

| ACMEQU4X9 | Educate pack horses |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to educate a horse to carry loads and work with other horses over different terrains and for varying purposes. The unit applies to most classes of horses and can be customised for other equids including donkeys and mules.The unit applies to individuals with experience and skills in horse handling and riding who have responsibility for educating pack horses for a range of purposes. They work independently within organisational guidelines, deal with predictable and unpredictable situations and apply problem-solving skills to achieve outcomes. All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures according to state/territory health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.  |
| Prerequisite Unit | The prerequisite units of competency for this unit are: * ACMEQU4XX Educate horses in initial basic handling
* ACMEQU206 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter

Note the following chain of prerequisites that also apply to this unit.

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| Unit of competency | Prerequisite requirement |
| ACMEQU206 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter | ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely |
| ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely  | ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour |
| ACMEQU4XX Educate horses in initial basic handling | ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely |

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| 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. Prepare to educate pack horses  | 1.1 Assess current level of education, condition and behaviour of the horse1.2 Confirm client needs and requirements and adjust education plan for individual horse if required1.3 Prepare safe, secure and controlled facilities and environment to conduct education 1.4 Identify hazards and control potential risks to safety of handler/s and horse/s1.5 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment (PPE)1.6 Determine if the assistance of another handler is required based on risk assessment of the horse  |
| 2. Mouth horse | 2.1 Familiarise horse with tack, including bridle and saddle, in preparation for carrying loads and leading 2.2 Mouth horse and educate to respond to aids and communication cues  |
| 3. Develop basic skills in carrying loads for pack horses  | 3.1 Introduce the horse to a pack saddle and fit correctly3.2 Introduce and familiarise the horse to panniers and low hanging equipment3.3 Teach horse to be led alongside a horse being ridden3.4 Habituate the horse to be in close proximity to other horses in front and to the rear3.5 Lead the horse, ensuring a safe position and distance, and past objects to become accustomed to size and sounds of paniers 3.6 Introduce heavier loads containing different objects, ensuring loads are balanced and secured, appropriate for the size of the horse  |
| 4. Build skills of pack horses  | 4.1 Train the pack horse to follow the lead horse using neck reins or lead rope4.2 Repeat exercises in a range of environments to develop horse confidence negotiating different surfaces and obstacles4.3 Teach horse to be restrained utilising remote area options and introduce to camp routines appropriate for intended purpose4.4 Recognise and respond appropriately to signs of stress and fatigue in horses undergoing education |
| 5. Apply reward-based horse education methodology  | 5.1 Apply education techniques consistently to reinforce horse learning5.2 Recognise and apply positive reinforcement to the horse for progress towards desired behaviours 5.3 Use appropriate techniques to manage behaviour and performance according to animal welfare principles and current equine learning theory 5.4 Assess horse acceptance of education for client's needs and their ability to carry loads  |

| Foundation SkillsThis 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 |
| Learning | * Actively source current, evidence-based information on equine education and learning theory to determine own education practices
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| Numeracy | * Use percentages or ratios to determine load to horse body weight
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| Navigate the world of work | * Take responsibility for complying with regulatory requirements, including work health and safety and animal welfare within own role and area of work
* Follow safe, ethical and humane horse handling industry practices
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| Interact with others | * Work collaboratively and communicate effectively with others to plan training programs and report on horse performance and progress
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| Get the work done | * Analyse problems and risks, devise solutions and reflect on approaches taken
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| Unit Mapping Information |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMEQU4X9 Educate pack horses | Not applicable | New unit | No equivalent unit |

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

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMEQU4X9 Educate pack horses  |
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| Performance Evidence |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has:* educated two horses to carry loads over different terrains whilst being led on foot and from another horse
* educated one horse to respond obediently to an overnight camp routine and yard restraints
* demonstrated safe horse handling and riding skills and appropriate education techniques to ensure their own and other's safety and the welfare of the horse at all times.
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| 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:* safe work practices when interacting with horses, including:
* assessing and controlling risks
* safe horse handling techniques
* safe zones around horses
* duty of care for others
* use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for activity
* horse welfare, including managing stress, fatigue and heat
* equine behaviour, including:
* body language and vocalisations
* temperament and characteristics of different breeds and classes of horses
* affective states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue
* behaviours and conditions, typically linked to strong flight or fight response, including:
* high risk behaviours to people including, biting, kicking, panicking, bucking and rearing
* key features of current research on equine cognition, intelligence, ethology and learning abilities relevant to training horses
* techniques to shape or modify horse behaviour
* horse characteristics suited to carrying loads and walking trails, including:
* sound feet and legs, sturdy conformation, physical strength, shorter stature
* mature age - fully developed bone structures
* calm, patient temperament
* obedient in hand and under saddle - not easily spooked by noise and unfamiliar objects
* facilities and environments for educating pack horses, including:
* controlled areas - arenas, fenced tracks
* uncontrolled areas - range of terrains and obstacles
* tack and equipment, including:
* bridle, halter
* breeching, breastplate, hobbles, cruppers
* pack saddle and saddle pads
* paniers and pack bags
* temporary yarding
* hi-lines, tree guards for tying up horses
* purpose of tack and equipment, how to fit correctly and how to check condition and working order
* camp or overnight routines and environments for pack horses
* criteria for matching the pack horse with lead horse, including temperament, size, speed and stamina
* features to include in an education plan, including objectives, stages and timeframes
* range of purposes for pack horses, including recreation, tourism and farm/agricultural work.
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| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:* physical conditions:
* a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions including controlled and open/uncontrolled areas
* resources, equipment and materials:
* variety of horses - appropriately educated in basic handling skills and assessed as suitable for handling by the individual
* personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly fitted and applicable to activity for the individual
* appropriate tack and gear required for education program.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training.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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