

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0.
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

ACMPHR401	Interpret equine behaviour
Application	<p>This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to interpret and apply knowledge of equine ethology, cognition and learning to ensure that the behavioural needs and welfare of horses are met while maintaining a safe working environment. It covers all breeds and intended uses and environments. The unit focuses on horses and can be applied to other domestic equids such as donkeys, mules and hinnies.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who have an independent or management role working with horses, and require a detailed understanding of their behavioural and ethological needs to make decisions relating to their welfare, care, handling and management.</p> <p>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace.</p> <p>No occupational licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Performance Horse (PHR)

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Investigate equine behaviour and the implications for management, handling and education	1.1 Compare and contrast the behaviour of domesticated horses and free-range horses 1.2 Determine the management implications of meeting innate equine behavioural needs 1.3 Identify unwanted problem behaviours in horses, including likely causes, treatment and prevention 1.4 Investigate evidence-based theories of equine learning, cognition and ethology and their application to the education and management of horses 1.5 Develop a strategy to communicate information about the education level and behavioural problems of individual horses to workers and clients 1.6 Reinforce safe handling techniques and the risks associated with interacting with horses to workers and clients
2. Apply knowledge of equine behaviour	2.1 Research current information of equine cognition, ethology and learning relevant to the training and management of horses 2.2 Analyse and apply knowledge of equine cognition, ethology and learning to specific education methods, systems and techniques 2.3 Develop a plan to manage the behaviour of a horse to perform a specific task using knowledge of equine cognition and learning

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
3. Apply knowledge of equine welfare	3.1 Analyse regulations, codes of practice and animal welfare frameworks relevant to horses 3.2 Conduct a horse welfare assessment applying a recognised animal welfare framework 3.3 Evaluate the outcomes of the welfare assessment and likely impact on equine behaviour
4. Improve horse welfare using knowledge of equine behaviour	4.1 Plan and implement methods to meet equine welfare requirements and allow for behavioural needs in a variety of situations 4.2 Evaluate management techniques against their impact on the welfare and behaviour of horses 4.3 Adjust organisational policy and procedures to address or incorporate knowledge of equine behaviour

Foundation Skills	
<i>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.</i>	
Skill	Description
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively source current, evidence-based information on equine learning theory and welfare to inform practices
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret textual information to identify and select key information about equine behaviour and welfare relevant to work operations
Navigate the world of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise the importance of applying knowledge of equine behaviour and welfare to improve safety interacting with horses and horse wellbeing
Get the work done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse problems and risks relevant to equine behaviour and welfare in the work environment and devise strategies or plans to address Use familiar digital systems and tools to access, analyse and present information relevant to role and work area

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMPHR401 Interpret equine behaviour Release 2	ACMPHR401 Interpret equine behaviour Release 1	Minor changes to performance criteria for clarity and consistency of terminology. Element 3 split into two to strengthen animal welfare. Revision of assessment requirements for clarity.	Equivalent unit

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for ACMPHR401 Interpret equine behaviour
Performance Evidence	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all the elements and performance criteria of this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • researched and collated a portfolio of information on the key features of equine cognition, ethology, behaviour and welfare relevant to work operations • accurately interpreted equine behaviour including body language, vocalisation, locomotory behaviour and interactions with other horses on at least five occasions • investigated approaches used at three horse facilities, including management routines used for similar purposes, to identify good practices and/or recommend changes to improve the wellbeing and behaviour of horses in each facility • communicated information about the individual behaviour and welfare of two horses to workers and/or clients relevant to work operations. 	

Knowledge Evidence	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the evolutionary basis of horse behaviour and its impact on the behavioural needs of horses • the behavioural needs and patterns of domestic horses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handled and unhandled horses • herd behaviour • individual stabled or yarded horses • equine behaviour, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • body language • vocalisations • affective states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue • behaviours and conditions, typically linked to strong flight or fight response, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fearful, nervous, timid, anxious behaviour • aggressive responses to people and/or other equines • overt signs of stress or injury • fears of specific stimuli • high risk behaviours (biting, kicking, panicking, extreme flight response) • key features of current research in equine cognition, ethology, behaviour and learning • key animal welfare frameworks and application to horses, including, 5 Freedoms, 5 Domains Model, quality of life indicators • the application of research to the management, handling, housing and education of horses • the effect of the environment, housing, handling, education and management decisions on the behaviour and welfare of horses • regulatory requirements and organisational policies and procedures relevant to equine behaviour, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work health and safety • animal welfare • local government regulations. 	

Assessment Conditions	
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions • resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to live horses and video scenarios to observe behaviour • technology to access information, and/or sources of current information on equine behaviour and welfare. 	

Assessment Conditions	
Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the <i>Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training</i> .	
Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.	
Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103

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