Modification history

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

ACMPHR401	**Interpret equine behaviour**
ACMEQU4X12	**Interpret and address equine behaviour and welfare**
Application	This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to interpret and apply knowledge of equine behaviour, 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. The unit applies to individuals who have an independent or management role working with horses, and require a detailed understanding of equine behaviour to make decisions and communicate solutions for welfare, care, handling, education and management. 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	~~Performance Horse (PHR)~~ Equine (EQU)

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	*Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.*
1. Investigate equine behaviour and the implications for management, handling and education	1.1 Determine the management implications of meeting innate equine behavioural needs 1.2 Identify problem behaviours in horses including likely causes 1.3 Apply evidence-based equine learning theory to the education and management of horses 1.4 Communicate information clearly about the education level and behavioural problems of individual horses to workers and clients 1.5 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 ethology and learning relevant to the education and management of horses 2.2 Analyse and apply knowledge of equine 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 learning and principles of animal welfare
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

Commented [SH1]: See suggested revisions over page - in blue text
To replace current elements & PCs

Elements	Performance Criteria	
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	*Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.*	**Commented [SH1]:** See suggested revisions over page - in blue text To replace current elements & PCs
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	

Interpret and address equine behaviour and welfare

1. Investigate equine behaviour	1.1 Observe horses and recognise normal, undesirable and abnormal behavioural signs in individual horses 1.2 Identify likely causes of undesirable and abnormal behaviours 1.3 Assess risks and issues associated with equine behaviour and implications for managing, handling and educating 1.4 Evaluate current, evidence-based learning principles and techniques used for horse education or managing behaviour
2. Apply knowledge of equine behaviour	2.1 Determine suitable evidence-based methods and techniques for educating or managing behaviour in individual horses 2.2 Develop strategies and individual plans for managing horse behaviour 2.3 Communicate information about behavioural challenges and education level of individual horses to handlers and clients 2.4 Reinforce safe handling techniques and strategies to minimise risks associated with horse behaviour to handlers and clients
3. Review equine welfare	3.1 Analyse regulations, codes of practice and animal welfare frameworks relevant to horses 3.2 Assess the welfare of individual horses using a recognised animal welfare assessment framework 3.3 Evaluate outcomes of welfare assessment and likely impact on horse behaviour
4. Improve practices to address equine behaviour and welfare	4.1 Evaluate impact of current work and management practices on horse behaviour and welfare 4.2 Plan and implement revised work practices to meet horse behaviour and welfare requirements

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.	
Skill	**Description**
Learning	• Undertake independent research to inform own development and work practices
Reading	• Analyse textual information that presents different viewpoints to inform decision making about equine behaviour and welfare
Writing	• Edit and adapt existing documentation to incorporate updated content
Oral communication	• Adapt communication style to explain information to people with diverse views or unfamiliarity with concepts

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status

ACMEQU4X12 Interpret and address equine behaviour and welfare

ACMEQU4X12 Interpret and address equine behaviour and welfare	ACMPHR401 Interpret equine behaviour	Title changed Code changed to reflect updated EQU sector Elements and performance criteria updated and reordered for clarity	Equivalent unit

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 ACMEQU4X12 Interpret and address equine behaviour and welfare**

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:
- prepared an ethogram, including facial language for a ridden or sport/performance horse
- developed and documented a behaviour management plan for two horses displaying different behavioural issues using current, evidence-based techniques
- assessed the welfare of the two horses above using a recognised animal welfare assessment framework tool
- communicated information about the behaviour and welfare of the two horses above to a handler or client
- reviewed and evaluated workplace or practitioner practices and updated at least two procedures to incorporate knowledge of equine behaviour and welfare

Original PE
There must be evidence that the individual has:
- researched and collated a portfolio of information on the key features of equine 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

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:
- behavioural needs and patterns of domestic horses, including:
  - handled and unhandled horses
  - herd behaviour
  - individual stabled or yarded horses
- equine behaviour, including:
  - body language and vocalisations
  - evolutionary basis of horse behaviour and its impact on the behavioural needs of horses
  - affective/emotional states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue
  - behaviours and conditions typically linked to strong fight or flight response
  - high-risk behaviours (biting, kicking, panicking, extreme flight response)
- concept and formats for documenting an ethogram
- key features of current research in equine, ethology/behaviour, cognition and learning
- key animal welfare frameworks and application to horses, including, Five Freedoms, Five Domains Model, or quality of life indicators
- application of research to the management, handling, housing and education of horses
- identification of situations requiring specialist advice on equine behaviour
- 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:
  - work health and safety
  - animal welfare
  - local government regulations.

Assessment Conditions

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 and video scenarios of live horses to observe a range of equine behaviours
    • technology to access information, and/or sources of current information on equine behaviour and welfare.
 	
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.

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