

LANEDC3

Prepare to carry out equine dental procedures



Overview

This standard covers the preparation required to carry out equine dental procedures and includes the working environment, equipment and gaining information on the horse and its history.

Preparation allows animal welfare, bio-security and health and safety to be prioritised and communicated to others in the context of the horse's overall health, concurrent disease and environment.

This standard is for equine dental technicians. Users of the standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies, and that they work within the limits of their authority, expertise, training, competence and experience.

LANEDC3

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 work in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) and the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
 - P2 establish the need for services with the owner/agent of the horse
 - P3 establish contact with the horse owner/agent and/or veterinary surgeon on arrival
 - P4 clarify and confirm the work that is to be carried out, estimated cost and method of payment
 - P5 identify and address health and safety risks in relation to the work area and work being carried out for yourself, others and the horse
 - P6 communicate the risks and the steps to reduce them to others in the work area
 - P7 locate horse to be treated and establish a suitable area to carry out the work
 - P8 recognise and interpret equine behavioural signs in relation to an equine dental examination
 - P9 recognise conditions, procedures/treatment and behaviours indicating chemical sedation is required
 - P10 communicate professionally with a veterinary surgeon to arrange provision of sedation at a mutually convenient time and location if required
 - P11 select appropriate equipment and instruments and ensure they are properly prepared
 - P12 establish measures to ensure hygiene and bio-security and ensure they are maintained throughout
 - P13 use the appropriate personal protective equipment
 - P14 prepare the appropriate disinfectant solution
 - P15 connect electrical instruments safely and ensure they are kept away from water and the horse
 - P16 ensure all instruments are located within easy access but where they will not be damaged
 - P17 find out the history of the horse and its wellbeing to include:
 - P17.1 age and its condition
 - P17.2 any problems eating or when ridden
 - P17.3 when the horse's teeth were last checked and by whom
 - P17.4 review the past dental charts if there are any
 - P17.5 history of handling and/or sedation for dental treatment in the past
 - P17.6 the owner/agent's aspirations for the horse
 - P17.7 who the current veterinary surgeon is and relevant veterinary history
 - P17.8 current vaccination status

LANEDC3

Prepare to carry out equine dental procedures

- P17.9 the horse's environment and husbandry
- P18 comply with current animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice at all times
- P19 maintain your own professional standards and ethics

LANEDC3

Prepare to carry out equine dental procedures

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) in relation to your role and the categories of equine dental procedures, to cover:
 - K1.1 Category 1
 - K1.2 Category 2
 - K1.3 Category 3
- K2 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how this can be achieved
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
- K4 the importance and correct use of personal protective equipment
- K5 the variety of equipment available to carry out equine dental procedures and how to choose the most appropriate equipment for the task
- K6 safe working practices for the use of electrical equipment to include:
 - K6.1 preparation
 - K6.2 connection to a power source
 - K6.3 positioning
- K7 how to use and maintain the equipment required to carry out equine dental procedures
- K8 the importance of gaining informed consent from the owner/agent of the horse prior to handling and treatment
- K9 the fees for services and how these are made up including costs and taxes and the reason for each type of fee
- K10 how to assess the risks prior to carrying out equine dental procedures
- K11 how to minimise risks to yourself, horse and others
- K12 laws governing use of animal medicines
- K13 animal (equine) behaviour including signs of avoidance, pain, malnutrition, oral pain, oral diseases where relevant
- K14 how to select and prepare a suitable working environment to carry out equine dental procedures
- K15 how to select and prepare a suitable disinfectant
- K16 how to take a history from the horse's owner/agent and the relevance of:
 - K15.1 age and its condition
 - K15.2 any problems eating or when ridden
 - K15.3 when the horse's teeth were last checked and by whom
 - K15.4 review the past dental charts if there are any
 - K15.5 history of handling and/or sedation for dental treatment in the past
 - K15.6 the owner/agent's aspirations for the horse
 - K15.7 who the current veterinary surgeon is and relevant veterinary

LANEDC3

Prepare to carry out equine dental procedures

history

K15.8 current vaccination status

K15.9 the horse's environment and husbandry

K17 the signs and symptoms that give rise to suspicion of infectious disease on a yard

K18 your responsibilities for the duty of care of animals under current animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice

K19 your legal and professional liability when working as an equine dental technician and the importance of appropriate insurance cover

Glossary

Horse

For the purpose of this standard the term horse includes donkey, ass, mule, hinny, pony and other equidae.

Animal welfare legislation

England and Wales - Animal Welfare Act 2006

Scotland - Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006

Northern Ireland - Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Category 1, 2 and 3 Equine Dental Procedures

Category 1 Procedures

Those procedures which an individual can perform after recognised training without specific attainment of qualifications.

Examination of teeth;

Removal of sharp enamel points using manual rasps only;

Removal of small dental overgrowths (maximum 4mm reductions) using manual rasps only;

Rostral profiling of the first cheek teeth (maximum 4mm reductions), previously termed 'bit seat shaping';

Removal of loose deciduous caps; and

Removal of supragingival calculus.

Category 2 Procedures (Replaces category 2 as on 2004 draft)

Additional procedures suitable for delegation to an EDT who has trained and passed an examination approved by DEFRA:

Examination, evaluation and recording of dental abnormalities;

The removal of loose teeth or dental fragments with negligible periodontal attachments;

The removal of erupted, non-displaced wolf teeth in the upper or lower jaw under direct and continuous veterinary supervision;

Palliative rasping of fractured and adjacent teeth; and

The use of motorised dental instruments where these are used to reduce overgrowths and remove sharp enamel points only. Horses should be sedated unless it is deemed safe to undertake any proposed procedure without sedation, with full informed consent of the owner.

Category 3 procedures

All other procedures and any new procedures, which arise as a result of scientific and technical development, would by default fall into category 3, which are those procedures restricted to qualified veterinary surgeons and are not proposed for deregulation. It is therefore NOT legal for these to be performed by non-veterinarians.

LANEDC3

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