

# LANEDC4

## Carry out equine dental examinations



---

### Overview

This standard covers the actions to be taken to carry out equine dental examinations in line with the requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966).

It includes assessment of the horse and its mouth, development of a treatment plan and communication with the horse's owner/agent. Working practices must be in line with current legislation and codes of practice and promote animal welfare and high standards of hygiene throughout.

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.

# LANEDC4

## Carry out equine dental examinations

---

### 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 ensure consent to carry out examination of the animal is obtained from the owner/agent and recorded
  - P3 obtain and record an appropriate history with respect to signs of general health, dental and oral disease, and previous dental treatments
  - P4 recognise and interpret equine behavioural signs in relation to an equine dental examination
  - P5 ensure the horse is appropriately handled to enable the examination to take place
  - P6 recognise conditions, procedures/treatment and behaviours indicating chemical sedation is required
  - P7 communicate professionally with a veterinary surgeon to arrange provision of sedation at a mutually convenient time and location if required
  - P8 establish measures to maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security and ensure they are maintained throughout
  - P9 conduct a physical assessment of the horse with respect to external structures adjacent to the dentition
  - P10 examine incisors, canines, interdental space, and for any signs of wolf teeth
  - P11 place an appropriate oral speculum safely
  - P12 remove retained food by rinsing
  - P13 perform a visual examination of the horse's mouth using appropriate instrumentation
  - P14 perform a manual/digital examination of the horse's mouth
  - P15 identify visible oral abnormalities
  - P16 chart findings clearly and accurately, and formulate a treatment plan
  - P17 advise on appropriate treatments within defined categories and procedures and obtain agreement from owner/agent for work to be carried out and the costs involved, including when no treatment is required
  - P18 refer to a veterinary surgeon where required by the findings of your dental examination in relation to the categories of equine dental procedures and your own capabilities
  - P19 refer to another equine dental technician where required by the findings of your dental examination in relation to the categories of equine dental procedures and your own capabilities
  - P20 assess the risks involved and communicate them to others
  - P21 ensure working methods promote health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice

# LANEDC4

## Carry out equine dental examinations

---

- P22 comply with current animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice at all times
- P23 ensure that the horse's welfare is maintained throughout and that your behaviour does not cause adverse reactions
- P24 maintain your own professional standards and ethics

# LANEDC4

## Carry out equine dental examinations

---

### 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 obtaining and recording informed consent before starting work
- K3 how to recognise and interpret equine behaviour and the conditions when sedation might be required for examination
- K4 equine anatomy and physiology relevant to the:
  - K4.1 oral cavity
  - K4.2 head
  - K4.3 respiratory system
  - K4.4 digestive system
  - K4.5 nervous system
- K5 legislation governing use of animal medicines
- K6 the effect of sedation on the horse and how that will affect your working practices and techniques used
- K7 equine behaviour including signs of avoidance, pain, malnutrition, oral pain, oral diseases where relevant
- K8 awareness of conditions causing signs similar to dental conditions
- K9 pathogens relative to equine oral diseases
- K10 signs of transmissible disease
- K11 awareness of the zoonotic risk when working with horses
- K12 disinfection, sterilisation and control of disease spread
- K13 developmental anatomy of equine teeth and aging
- K14 developmental dental disorders
- K15 action of chewing and wear of equine dentition
- K16 diseases of wear afflicting equine teeth
- K17 pathology of equine teeth including: dental fractures, caries, pulp disease, periodontal disease
- K18 correct procedure to safely undertake oral examinations
- K19 instrumentation for oral examinations and treatments
- K20 the appropriate oral specula for oral examinations, including their correct use and care
- K21 routine treatments to correct disorders of dental pathology allowed within the remit of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966)
- K22 treatments requiring referral to veterinarians, and indications for veterinary diagnostic imaging
- K23 treatments requiring referral to other equine dental technicians due to the limitations of your training and experience
- K24 professional conduct when collaborating with veterinary and other

# LANEDC4

## Carry out equine dental examinations

---

- professionals and paraprofessionals
- K25 the importance of discussing findings and treatment with the owner/agent and obtaining consent to continue
- K26 methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why it is important
- K27 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
- K28 the importance and correct use of personal protective equipment
- K29 your responsibilities for the duty of care of animals under animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
- K30 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.

# LANEDC4

## Carry out equine dental examinations

---

**Developed by** Lantra

---

**Version number** 1

---

**Date approved** February 2013

---

**Indicative review date** February 2018

---

**Validity** Current

---

**Status** Original

---

**Originating organisation** Lantra

---

**Original URN** LANEDC4

---

**Relevant occupations** Equine Dental Technician; Equine Dentist; Horse Dentist

---

**Suite** Equine Dental Care

---

**Key words** dental examination; equine; incisors; canines; wolf teeth

---