

Assist with the specialist care of performance horses

Overview

This standard is about assisting with the specialist care of performance horses.

Performance horses include horses for racing, competition and driving.

This standard involves exercising the performance horse using the horse walker or other forms of non-ridden exercise, assisting the specialist with the administration of health care and helping to keep the yard and facilities in a tidy and serviceable condition.

The work described in this standard would be carried out following agreement with a supervisor about the responsibilities and methods of work.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of health, safety and animal welfare in connection with this activity.

You will need to be able to recognise hazards in the workplace.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. check and ensure that equipment and facilities are maintained in a serviceable condition
3. approach the horse in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimizes stress to the horse, and risk to yourself and others
4. assist with the specialist care of performance horses by carrying out non-ridden exercise routines, according to instructions
5. assist the specialist with the administration of health care for performance horses, according to instructions
6. maintain accurate stable records for individual horses in line with the procedures of the organisation you work for
7. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. how to approach horses in an appropriate manner to minimise stress and risk to yourself and others
3. how to use the different types of non-ridden exercise routines for performance horses
4. the types of specialist health care and the procedures for assisting equine health care professionals
5. the types of records and their importance, including health, treatments, shoeing and exercise records and how to maintain them
6. the procedures for checking and maintaining equipment and facilities and the need for them to be in a serviceable condition
7. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
8. the importance of hygiene and bio-security when providing on-going care for performance horses
9. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range

Assist two of the following and record details of procedures:

- vet
- farrier
- dentist
- physiotherapist

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Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding **Non-ridden exercise routines:**

- in-hand
- lungeing
- long reining
- horse walker
- swimming
- treadmill

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