

Care for performance horses after strenuous work

Overview

This standard is about caring for performance horses after strenuous work. Performance horses include horses for racing, competition and driving.

This standard involves caring for the horse after strenuous work according to the needs of the individual horse, the weather conditions and the time of year.

You should be able to care for a hot, sweaty horse immediately after exercise and a cold, wet horse on return from exercise.

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 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. approach the horse in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimizes stress to the horse and risk to yourself and others
3. care for performance horses after strenuous work by removing tack and equipment, maintaining the safety and the comfort of the horse throughout
4. wash, cool and dry the horse as appropriate, according to instructions
5. put appropriate clothing and equipment on the horse, according to instructions
6. check the horse's legs and feet and report any problems to the appropriate person
7. assist with the application of specialist leg preparations according to instructions
8. provide the horse with food and water according to instructions
9. monitor the health and wellbeing of the horse following exercise and report any problems to the appropriate person
10. assist with any treatments to horses with health problems
11. 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. the signs of tiredness and stress in horses after strenuous work
4. how to cool and dry the horse and the reasons why the weather conditions must be considered
5. the care requirements of horses depending on the duration and intensity of the strenuous work
6. the grooming and cleaning requirements the horses may have following work
7. the clothing and equipment that must be applied to horses, including sweat sheets and thermal rugs
8. the importance of checking the horse's legs and feet after strenuous work
9. the types and reasons for specialist leg preparations including poultices and bandages
10. the feed and water requirements following strenuous work
11. how to recognise and report health problems and the importance of monitoring the horse specifically in relation to dehydration
12. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
13. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Care for:

- a hot sweaty horse immediately after strenuous work
- a wet horse on a cold day on return from strenuous work

Wash:

- sponge down
- full wash
- hose
- sweat scrape

Use two of the following cooling and drying:

- walking off
- towelling
- heat lamps

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Glossary

Health problems:

- respiratory rate problems
- cuts
- swelling
- problems with shoes
- loss of appetite and not drinking

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