

Carry out pre and post horse trek procedures

Overview

This standard involves carrying out pre- and post- horse trek procedures. These procedures could be helping the clients mount and dismount, adjusting tack as necessary and caring for the horses on return from the trek. You will be required to assist clients that are both beginners and capable riders.

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 connection with this activity.

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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. carry out pre-trek assessments, according to instructions
3. approach the horse in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimises stress to the horse and risk to yourself and others
4. check the suitability of tack and tack up horses according to instructions
5. assist riders with mounting and dismounting from the ground and a mounting block
6. adjust stirrups and rein length to suit individual riders as required
7. recognise and report hazardous situations promptly to the trek leader
8. carry out post-trek procedures for both horses and riders, according to instructions
9. check the horses' health and condition on return from the trek
10. provide horses with water and make them comfortable according to season and work levels
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. why it is important to follow instructions and agreed procedures for trekking activities
3. the potential hazards likely to be encountered during mounting and dismounting from both the ground and a mounting block
4. the insurance requirements for trekking establishments
5. the importance of good customer relations
6. how to approach horses in an appropriate manner to minimise stress, and risk to yourself and others
7. why it is important to recognise poor fitting, broken or unsafe tack
8. the different types of treks and the requirements of short and long treks and seasonal differences
9. the procedures for pre-trek assessments of the horses and clients, including health checks and any prerequisite registration or health documentation
10. how and when to use numnahs and saddle pads
11. how to tack up, un-tack and adjust tack for comfort and safety
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

Assist with treks involving:

- beginners
- capable riders

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Glossary

Tack and equipment:

- PPE and possible hi-vis
- bridle
- saddle
- neck strap
- protective numnahs

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