
Overview

This standard is for those who care for horses in rehabilitation.

You should be able to identify and monitor the progress of horse health and welfare, and assist health care professionals in their work. You should be able to work with horses that live alone and those in groups.

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.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. care for horses in rehabilitation by establishing the horse in its accommodation
3. prepare feed rations according to instructions
4. provide feed in a manner suitable to the condition and behaviour of the horse
5. identify and report any behavioural patterns or difficulties
6. monitor the weight of horses as one indication of progress towards improving health
7. provide exercise for horses in accordance with their rehabilitation plan
8. monitor the progress of the horse's health and welfare against the rehabilitation plan
9. maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
10. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. the behaviour of horses living alone or in groups and how this may affect their care
3. the basic dietary requirements of horses that are underweight and those that are overweight
4. the possible exercise regimes for horses undergoing rehabilitation and the health and safety implications of these
5. the stabling and/or paddock requirements for specific conditions
6. the techniques available to relieve boredom and prevent stress when dealing with horses with specific conditions
7. the handling techniques when dealing with horses with specific conditions
8. the problems relating to box-resting a horse
9. the basic anatomy and physiology of horses, including the digestive and skeletal systems
10. why it is important to follow a rehabilitation plan and the importance of providing feedback on progress
11. the ethical problems when deciding on euthanasia
12. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security during horse rehabilitation
13. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
14. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

Care for horses in rehabilitation

Scope/range

Care for and monitor the following horses:

- those in general good health
- those in poor health

Provide feed rations to the following horses:

- those underweight
- those overweight

Establish the following horses in their accommodation:

- horses that live alone
- horses that live in groups

Glossary

Exercise regimes:

- lungeing
- ridden
- horse walker
- in-hand
- swimming
- different surfaces
- grazing

Care for horses in rehabilitation

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