

Assist with getting mares in foal

Overview

This standard is about assisting with getting mares in foal. This could include teasing and scanning of a mare or assisting with the preparation of a mare for artificial insemination, recognising the signs of a mare in season and completion of appropriate stud records.

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. assist with getting mares in foal by holding, presenting and positioning the mare correctly under supervision and where appropriate, assist with the scanning of the mare for natural cover or artificial insemination
3. note reactions of mare(s) to other horses, especially males and report these to the appropriate person
4. provide information for the completion of stud documentation
5. maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
6. 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. the reasons for teasing and/or scanning to detect oestrus for either natural cover or artificial insemination
3. the importance of observing signs of oestrus
4. the covering process or the artificial insemination (A.I.) process and the correct use of stocks in either case
5. the main stages of oestrus in the mare
6. the reaction of stallions to mares in oestrus
7. the points to be aware of when working with teasers and stallions, including the potential dangers
8. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security during reproduction, and the methods for achieving this
9. the importance of maintaining stud documentation and the type of information that needs to be recorded
10. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
11. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Scope/range

Maintain the following information on the stud documentation:

- dates of foaling
- mares
- stallions
- teasing and covering

Glossary

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