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## Overview

This standard involves assisting with foaling. This will include the preparation of the foaling box, recognition of the signs of imminent foaling, observation of foaling and the handling of the newborn foal.

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. prepare foaling boxes according to instructions
3. prepare and assist with the use of appropriate equipment needed for foaling
4. recognise the main signs of imminent foaling and report these to the appropriate person
5. assist with foaling according to instructions
6. handle the newborn foal in an appropriate manner, according to instructions
7. maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
8. maintain the health and safety of horses, yourself and others during the activity

## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. how to prepare foaling boxes with regard to the special requirements of the foaling mare and the newborn foal
3. the types of equipment for foaling and methods of maintaining it in a suitable condition for use
4. the main stages of foaling including the signs of imminent foaling
5. the assistance you may be required to provide during foaling
6. the problems that could occur and when the veterinary surgeon should be called
7. the reactions of the mare to the newborn foal
8. how to handle a newborn foal
9. how to maintain foaling records
10. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security during foaling and the methods for achieving this
11. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
12. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

**Scope/range**

Assist with foaling on at least one occasion:

- prepare a foaling box
- prepare foaling equipment
- recognise signs of imminent foaling
- handle the newborn foal

## Assist with foaling

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