

Assist with handling mares and foals

Overview

This standard involves assisting with handling mares and foals. This may include catching, leading and turning a mare and foal out into the field, and holding a mare and foal for examination or treatment. It also covers knowledge of the weaning procedure.

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. approach and assist with handling the mare and foal in a manner that minimizes stress to the horses and risk to yourself and others
3. turn out a mare and foal in accordance with instructions
4. introduce a mare and foal to other horses
5. catch and bring in a mare and foal in accordance with instructions
6. hold a mare and foal for examination, as directed
7. assist with the weaning process, according to procedures
8. maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
9. 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 handle mares and foals
3. the requirements for introducing a mare and foal to other horses
4. methods for holding mares and foals for veterinary examination or routine treatments
5. the normal age for weaning a foal
6. methods of weaning and the reactions of the mare and foal to weaning
7. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security when handling a mare and foal, and the methods for achieving this
8. risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
9. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Handle a mare and foal while:

- catching a mare and foal in the stable
- turning out a mare and foal
- bringing a mare and foal in from the field
- holding a mare or foal for examination or treatment

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