

Deliver basic health care treatments to horses

Overview

This standard involves delivering basic health care treatments to horses, according to veterinary instructions and legislative requirements. It also involves the recognition and treatment of health problems and minor ailments.

This standard applies to all types of horses. You should know where to seek assistance if you have any problems.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of animal health and welfare and health and safety in connection with this work.

You will need to be able to recognise hazards and assess risks 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
2. store and administer drugs, medication and equipment used to deliver basic health care treatments to horses, in accordance with veterinary instructions and health and safety requirements
3. use only current and uncontaminated prescribed medication for the intended horse
4. handle and restrain the horse in a manner that does not compromise animal welfare, avoids behaviour giving rise to welfare concern and maintains health and safety
5. deliver the basic health care treatment to the horse as specified, using the correct technique and at the stated time and frequency
6. administer emergency procedures when necessary
7. seek assistance without delay when it is not possible to administer the basic health care treatment to the horse
8. implement appropriate routine care, diet and exercise to the horse after treatment
9. observe horses after treatment and report any unusual signs immediately
10. take appropriate action if contagious or infectious diseases are anticipated
11. ensure appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security are maintained
12. keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you are working for
13. communicate with others and maintain affective team work
14. ensure waste from healthcare treatments is disposed of safely and correctly
15. monitor and maintain the health and 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 necessary to interpret medication instructions accurately
3. how to use the equipment appropriate to the treatment for the horse
4. the importance of using appropriate handling and restraint techniques and minimising stress levels to the safety of the handler and horse
5. the cleaning and hygiene procedures to be followed when delivering health care treatments to minimise zoonoses and other communicable diseases
6. how to deliver health care treatments and emergency procedures to horses
7. the side effects or adverse reactions to medication that might occur in the horse
8. the reasons and legislative requirements for the withdrawal of drugs
9. the legislative requirements for the use and storage of drugs
10. the significance of expiry dates on drugs and medication and correct procedures for disposal
11. the procedures for the safe disposal of contaminated and non-contaminated waste and sharps
12. the appropriate action if contagious or infectious diseases are anticipated or identified
13. the importance of evaluating the actions taken when dealing with any problems with delivering basic health care treatments to horses
14. the importance of maintaining complete and accurate records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
15. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
16. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Deliver the following medication:

- prescription-only medicine
- over-the-counter medicine
- parasite control

Deliver the following types of treatment:

- cleaning and hygiene procedures
- topical treatments
- oral treatments
- treatments for wounds

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Glossary

Treatments could include:

- poulticing (hot or cold)
- tubbing
- hosing
- fomentation

Medication could include:

- pastes
- powders
- liquids by mouth or in feed

Topical treatments could include:

- antiseptic powders
- ointments
- washes

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