

Introduce young horses to equipment to aid training and development

Overview

This standard is about introducing young horses to equipment, to aid training and development. You should be able to identify the training needs of young horses, introduce training procedures, monitor progress and adjust the programme. You will need to agree the training with the appropriate person and, where necessary, modify it to take into account any advice given.

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 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. identify the training and development needs of individual young horses and agree these with the appropriate person
3. introduce the young horse to the appropriate basic handling, tying up and preliminary training procedures
4. handle and restrain the young horse in a manner that promotes animal welfare, avoids behaviour giving rise to welfare concern and maintains health and safety
5. select, introduce and fit suitable backing equipment to the young horse according to recognised industry procedures
6. maintain the physical and mental wellbeing of the young horse throughout the process
7. monitor the progress of the training and development programme and report this to the appropriate person
8. recognise where adjustments need to be made and adjust the programme according to requirements and within your level of responsibility
9. maintain communication with all those involved in the care and training of the young horse
10. monitor and maintain the health and safety of horses, yourself and others 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 introduce young horses to basic handling and equipment
3. how to train young horses from [the age of] eight months until it is ready for backing
4. the psychology of young horses
5. the importance of good manners in young horses
6. the use and fitting of backing equipment including: bit, rug, roller, bridle, side reins and boots
7. effective methods of starting the training and development of young horses
8. the consequences of a young horse having a negative experience of training
9. the importance of communicating with those involved in the care and training of the young horse
10. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
11. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Select and fit the following backing equipment:

- bit
- rug
- roller
- snaffle bridle
- side reins
- boots

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Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	2
Date Approved	January 2017
Indicative Review Date	January 2021
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANEq310
Relevant Occupations	Equine Assistant
Suite	Equine
Keywords	horse; equine; training; animal health and welfare