

Overview

This standard is about contributing to the evaluation and modification of training programmes for racehorses. You should be able to carry out this work at each stage of fitness from road work to fast work, and with horses at varying levels of fitness, up to and including race fitness.

You should be able to evaluate the training activities, obtain feedback about the horse's performance and analyse the effectiveness of the training programme.

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

You will be able to recognise hazards and assess risks in the workplace.

Contribute to the evaluation and modification of training programmes for racehorses

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. contribute to the evaluation of training programmes for racehorses, at regular intervals, in accordance with current good practice and objectives
2. obtain feedback from relevant personnel on all aspects relating to training programmes for racehorses
3. analyse the effects of the training programmes on the racehorses
4. record the results of the racehorse training programmes
5. evaluate and record the suitability of the facilities, equipment and staff
6. discuss the evaluation of the racehorse training programmes with the relevant personnel
7. review and modify the objectives of the racehorse training programmes, where necessary
8. communicate the modifications to the racehorse training programmes to the relevant personnel
9. monitor and maintain the health and safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. when and why objectives of the racehorse training programmes should be reviewed
2. how to obtain feedback regarding progress and from whom
3. how to evaluate the feedback against the objectives of the racehorse training programmes
4. the psychological and physical effects of training on the racehorses
5. the reasons for blood testing and the importance of liaison with the veterinary surgeon
6. the significance of identifying optimum body weights and the use of weigh bridges
7. the effects of temperament, age and experience on the behaviour of racehorses
8. why it is important to agree modifications to the training programme with relevant personnel
9. the training aids and methods used
10. the facilities required, including; grass gallops, all weather gallops, hurdles and fences
11. alternative training methods including; horse walkers and swimming pools
12. how a feeding programme will change at various stages of fitness
13. the importance of regular and correct shoeing of racehorses
14. the British Horseracing Authority regulations and other regulations regarding routine vaccinations
15. how to recognise and assess the effects of physical and behavioural problems on racehorses and their attitude to work, and amend the training programmes accordingly
16. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
17. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

Scope/range

Evaluate and modify a training programme for horses at varying levels of fitness, up to and including race fitness, and with different training objectives.

Evaluate the following activities:

- road work
- fast work
- routine fitness work
- schooling

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