

Overview

This standard covers caring for the mare and foal. You should be able to monitor the health of the newborn foal and the mare, identify any health problems, take the appropriate action in response to health problems and implement routine healthcare.

You should be able to carry out appropriate methods of weaning, check the health of the horses post-weaning and check the health of young stock.

You should 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.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity
2. care for and maintain the health of the mare and foal
3. identify any health problems in the mare and foal and take the appropriate action
4. establish and implement the daily handling routine of the mare and foal
5. plan and implement routine healthcare for the mare and foal, including; parasite control, vaccination and foot care
6. introduce the mare and foal to grazing, according to current industry good practice
7. establish and implement appropriate methods of weaning the foal
8. monitor and maintain the health and well-being of the mare and the foal post-weaning
9. identify when to seek specialist advice and support
10. implement fostering programmes and care for orphan foals where appropriate
11. maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
12. 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. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. how to identify, treat and take the appropriate action in response to health problems with the mare and foal
3. the importance of colostrum and how to ensure that the foal has obtained sufficient amounts
4. management procedures for limb deformities
5. caslick's operation
6. fostering procedures and how to care for an orphan foal
7. the timing and methods of weaning for groups, individual, stalled and paddocked foals
8. the problems that may affect the mare and foal after weaning
9. the developmental problems in growing youngsters
10. when and how to seek advice and support from specialists
11. how to maintain appropriate records
12. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security when caring for the mare and foal after foaling, and the methods for achieving this
13. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
14. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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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	LANEq329
Relevant Occupations	Equine Supervisor
Suite	Equine
Keywords	equine; horses; mare; foal
