

Care for and prepare the mare for covering

Overview

This standard is about caring for and preparing the mare for covering.

You should be able to care for the barren mare, confirm the mare's receptivity for covering, prepare the mare for covering and care for in-foal mares from covering to foaling.

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. care for the barren mare to optimise her chances of conception
3. take appropriate precautions to prevent sexually transmitted diseases
4. confirm the mare's receptivity for covering in accordance with current industry good practice
5. prepare the mare for covering correctly and in accordance with current industry good practice
6. assist with covering the mare with the designated stallion
7. carry out arrangements for pregnancy tests and communicate promptly to the appropriate person
8. contribute to the organisation of teasing routines
9. carry out the routine health care of in-foal mares from covering to foaling
10. ensure appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security are maintained
11. 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. the regulations regarding swabbing of mares for venereal disease and infection
3. how to recognise venereal diseases and the necessity of notifying the relevant authority
4. breeding and registration schemes
5. the methods and timing of pregnancy testing
6. pedigrees and the selection of mares and stallions for breeding and the intended use of progeny
7. the oestrus cycle, signs of oestrus and hormonal control
8. the methods of confirming receptivity for covering
9. equipment that can be used during teasing and covering
10. the reproductive anatomy of mare and stallion
11. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security when caring for and prepare mares for covering, and the methods for achieving this
12. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
13. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation/codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Prepare at least one mare for teasing and at least one mare for covering, one of which has a foal at foot

Promote health through three of the following:

- parasite control
- teeth rasping
- feet trimming
- routine vaccination

Take the following precautions:

- swabbing
- hygiene

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