

Care for polo ponies before, during and after matches

Overview

This standard involves caring for polo ponies before, during and after matches. You should be able to fit tack, select equipment for matches, fit boots and bandages, provide feed and water and warm the ponies down after play.

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. handle and restrain polo ponies in a manner that does not compromise animal welfare, avoids behaviour giving rise to welfare concern and maintains health and safety
3. select and fit tack to polo ponies, which is appropriate for schooling, exercise and play
4. select equipment needed before, during and after matches
5. ensure ponies are freshly trimmed and hogged before a match and their tails are put up
6. fit boots and bandages securely and effectively for protection and apply studs
7. warm up ponies before and during matches and warm down the ponies after play to maintain their health and wellbeing
8. provide feed and water before, during and after play to maintain health and wellbeing
9. assist players throughout the match including providing efficient pony and tack changes
10. react quickly and efficiently to any emergency that may arise
11. ensure that there is a clean environment for the polo ponies
12. identify any defective tack and equipment and take the appropriate action, within the limits of your authority
13. 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 importance of using appropriate handling and restraint techniques in order to minimise stress to the horse and risks to yourself and others
3. the effects of anaerobic exercise on polo ponies
4. how to prepare polo ponies and equipment
5. how to warm up and warm down polo ponies
6. the correct ways to feed and water polo ponies before, during and after play
7. how procedures vary according to weather conditions
8. how to care for tired polo ponies
9. the polo match procedures
10. the schooling requirements of polo ponies
11. the specialist equipment used in polo
12. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
13. how to handle and restrain horses
14. how to identify defective tack and equipment
15. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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