

## Care for and prepare the mare for artificial insemination

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### Overview

This standard is about caring for and preparing the mare for artificial insemination.

You should be able to care for the barren mare, organise veterinary scans to assist with the timing of artificial insemination, prepare the mare for artificial insemination and care for in-foal mares from artificial insemination 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. contribute to the organisation of scanning routines to assist with the timing of artificial insemination
5. prepare the mare correctly for artificial insemination, in accordance with current good practice
6. assist with artificial insemination of the mare
7. carry out arrangements for pregnancy tests and communicate promptly to the appropriate person
8. carry out routine health care of in-foal mares from artificial insemination to foaling, including parasite control, teeth rasping, foot trimming and routine vaccinations
9. maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
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. the regulations regarding swabbing of mares for venereal disease and infection
3. how to recognise venereal disease and how to notify the relevant authority
4. the breeding and registration schemes
5. the methods and timing of pregnancy testing
6. the 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 for artificial insemination
8. the veterinary input required to establish the correct timing for artificial insemination
9. the equipment that is to be used during artificial insemination
10. the procedures to be followed when artificially inseminating the mare and when artificial insemination is not permissible
11. the reproductive anatomy of the mare and the stallion
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 and codes of practice
14. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security when caring for and preparing mares for covering, as well as the methods for achieving this

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