

Manage the training of young horses

Overview

This standard is for those who are involved in managing the training of young horses. This includes supervising the breaking and riding of horses. This standard also deals with managing and supervising the education of the horse including mouthing, lungeing or long reining, backing and riding away and the introduction to the breaking equipment, ground work and backing.

This standard also includes the acceptance of discipline, simple movements and working in the company of other horses.

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

You will need to ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, at all times.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess hazards and control the risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity
2. manage the training of young horses by developing a suitable training programme for the horse
3. ensure that appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
4. implement the breaking programme, briefing the handlers and confirming their understanding
5. control and co-ordinate the successful introduction of the young horse to the breaking process
6. evaluate the horse's progress throughout, and agree and implement any required modifications to the programme
7. ensure that appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
8. use working practices that are safe and in accordance with yard procedures

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to develop a plan for training young horses
2. the importance of evaluating and modifying the plan
3. the principles of training young horses from eight months to backing and from the time they are ridden away
4. the clothing and personal protective equipment that should be worn for the activity
5. the use of specialist equipment and the use of breaking tack or harness
6. the purpose of lungeing and long reining in the programme
7. horses affected by mishandled training or horses with behavioural issues
8. the psychological and physiological effects that breaking activities may have on the horse
9. when to start the programme and the consequences of overworking immature horses
10. the psychological effects of changes in environment on the horse
11. the effect of introducing horses to simple movements, of working in company with other horses, of outside influences and of traffic
12. the importance of establishing and maintaining records
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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