

Develop and implement a breeding and rearing policy for horses

Overview

This standard is about the development and implementation of a breeding and rearing policy for horses. It is for those who are involved with stud management and policy-making decisions, and includes the selection and management of brood mares, foaling mares, foals, young stock and/or stallions.

This standard involves developing and evaluating the stud management policy, including mare and stallion selection and day-to-day management routines, such as feeding as well as rearing of young stock.

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. develop a breeding and rearing policy for horses based on an evaluation of future trends, organisational and market needs, the business plan and staff resources
2. ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy conform to legislative requirements and current best practice
3. communicate the policy to all those who will be involved in its implementation
4. oversee the effective implementation of the policy
5. ensure appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
6. evaluate the policy against stated aims and objectives at agreed intervals
7. act on decisions resulting from the evaluation process promptly
8. ensure that appropriate records are maintained and stored, as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
9. assess hazards and control risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the clothing and personal protective equipment that should be worn for the activity
2. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
3. the horse breeding industry, its development and future trends
4. the methods of analysing trends
5. the codes of practice and legislative requirements governing the breeding and rearing of horses
6. the breeding and registration schemes, registration of mares, stallions and foals
7. pedigrees and the selection of mares and stallions for intended use
8. policies on disclosure of information
9. the importance of establishing and maintaining records
10. stud terms, fees and methods of payment, and the nomination form
11. the regulations regarding vaccination, swabbing and venereal diseases
12. dietary and exercise requirements of mares, stallions and young stock
13. the role of the veterinary surgeon in effective stud management
14. how to formulate insemination procedures according to the needs of the mare, stallion and industry.
15. the importance of systematic review to improving policy
16. the importance of ensuring that policy modifications are implemented and disseminated

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