
Overview

This standard is about developing and implementing training programmes for performance horses.

It covers assessing the horse's current condition, setting goals for the horse and selecting the most appropriate methods of training to allow the horse to achieve those goals. It also covers evaluating and reviewing the training programme to ensure it continues to meet objectives. The objectives and training programme should be based on the limitations of the horse.

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 ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, at all times.

This standard is for those who are involved with developing and implementing training programmes for performance horses.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. evaluate the current performance and condition of the horse and identify the horse's training needs
2. establish and agree objectives with the relevant personnel, and develop a training programme for the horse to meet the required level of performance
3. formulate training goals and methods based on the agreed objectives, training needs, limitations of the horse and resources
4. communicate the requirements of the proposed training programme to all those involved in its implementation
5. oversee the allocation of resources to achieve the objectives of the training programme
6. ensure the training programme is implemented to meet the objectives set for the horse
7. obtain feedback from all those involved in implementing the training programme
8. review and revise the training programme to take account of the horse's response to the training so far
9. ensure the appropriate records are maintained and stored, as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
10. assess hazards and control risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the process of establishing measurable goals and objectives for a performance horse training programme
2. the factors affecting the horse's performance and their impact on the training programme
3. how to develop a training programme based on the required objectives and available resources
4. the requirements for health and wellbeing for horses at different stages of training
5. the importance of briefing and maintaining communication with those involved in the implementation of the training programme
6. the reasons for blood testing, weighing and the interpretation of results
7. the banned and prohibited substances
8. the advantages and disadvantages of different training methods
9. the effects of training on the mental and physical welfare of the horse
10. suitable training methods to meet the objectives of the training programme
11. the importance of reviewing and revising a training programme to meet the objectives
12. how to recognise the limitations of horses to meet the training objectives
13. the principles of exercise physiology for horses
14. the importance of establishing and maintaining records
15. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	2
Date Approved	January 2017
Indicative Review Date	January 2021
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANEq405
Relevant Occupations	Equine Manager
Suite	Equine
Keywords	equine; horses; training