

Manage the breeding of horses for natural covering

Overview

This standard is about managing the breeding of horses for natural covering, and includes organising and overseeing covering, mare and stallion selection, briefing and controlling staff and determining yard policy.

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.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. ensure appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
2. select and implement appropriate hygiene and bio-security measures and ensure they are maintained
3. manage the breeding of horses for natural covering by selecting stallions and/or mares in accordance with industry practice
4. define and communicate handlers' responsibilities and limits of authority
5. obtain feedback from handlers on the progress of coverings
6. take appropriate action if difficulties are encountered during coverings
7. identify sub-fertility in mares and/or stallions and take appropriate action
8. encourage individuals to make suggestions on how procedures could be improved
9. ensure 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

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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. the importance of implementing appropriate hygiene and bio-security measures and how these can be achieved
3. the importance of conformation, pedigree, value and past performance in the selection of breeding stock
4. the mare's reproductive system and hormonal control of the cycle
5. the detection of oestrus and the manipulation of the oestrus cycle
6. the stallion's reproductive system, semen quality and the implications of overuse
7. the detection, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases
8. the causes of and treatment for sub-fertility and infertility in mares and stallions
9. the methods and timing of pregnancy testing
10. how to maintain the physical and psychological wellbeing of the stallion
11. the effects of transporting stallions, mares and foals by road, sea and air
12. the maintenance and organisation of stud 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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