

Manage the breeding of mares by artificial insemination

Overview

This standard is about managing the breeding of mares by artificial insemination.

This will include organising and overseeing the preparation of the mare for artificial insemination, management of the procedure from oestrus detection and timing of service through to pregnancy diagnosis, ordering and organising the delivery of the semen from an off-site stallion or collection of the equine semen from an on-site stallion, 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. define and communicate handlers' responsibilities and the limits of their authority
4. make necessary adjustments to working methods and equipment throughout the process, and take appropriate action if difficulties are encountered
5. manage the screening of the mare for sexually transmitted diseases in line with current legislation
6. manage ways in which mares should be restrained for artificial insemination to promote their welfare
7. manage veterinary visits, scans and oestrus control measures to establish the correct timing for breeding of mares through artificial insemination
8. assess semen to be used to ensure it is of the correct quality and quantity to achieve conception and take appropriate action if it is not managed
9. the preparation and handling of equine semen in accordance with specifications for the type of equine semen being used
10. check the equine semen labelling and paperwork to establish the equine semen is from the correct stallion required for the mare
11. manage the artificial insemination of the mare correctly in accordance with legislation
12. fill in and manage the return of the artificial insemination documentation and equitainer/mini tub/dry shipper to the appropriate address
13. carry out all work in accordance with relevant legislation and codes of practice
14. deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with legislation
15. ensure appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
16. assess hazards and control the 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 this can be achieved
3. the types of tools, equipment and materials required for artificial insemination, and how to maintain and use these safely
4. the suitability of mares for artificial insemination using fresh, chilled and frozen equine semen and the reasons why mares may be unsuitable for artificial insemination with some types of equine semen
5. the methods for assessing the quality of the equine semen sample and the actions to be taken where equine semen does not meet correct quality requirements
6. the signs of oestrus in mares and the methods that can be used to aid detection and control the length of oestrus
7. oestrus and the timing of artificial insemination to achieve conception, depending on the type of equine semen being used
8. the methods in which mares should be restrained for artificial insemination to promote their welfare
9. the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases in line with current legislation
10. the timing and methods of pregnancy diagnosis
11. the correct methods of disposing of waste and excess material
12. the appropriate records to be kept and their significance
13. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
14. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
15. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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