



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock

**Unit code:** DP1P 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to allow candidates to develop the skills and underpinning knowledge necessary to handle and rear youngstock from birth to breaking.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Explain the nutritional and feeding requirements of the young horse.
- 2 Identify handling techniques for different stages of the horse's development.
- 3 Describe health and welfare recommendations for the young horse.

**Credit points and level:** 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7\*)

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

**Recommended prior knowledge and skills:** Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Ideally this Unit should be taken after the Higher National Unit: Equine Nutrition. In addition it would be beneficial if the candidate had some years of vocational experience in horse management.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving, Numeracy* and *Communication* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

**Context for delivery:** If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

This Unit is an optional Unit in the HND in Equine Studies. It may also be delivered as a free-standing Unit and may be used for the purposes of continuing professional development.

**Assessment:** There are two assessments for this Unit. These take the form of structured questions based around given scenarios for Outcome 1 and 3 and a practical assignment for Outcome 2.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock

**Unit code:** DP1P 34

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

### **Outcome 1**

Explain the nutritional and feeding requirements of the young horse

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Importance of colostrum
- ◆ Introduction of hard feed
- ◆ Feed quality and quantity
- ◆ Importance of protein, carbohydrates, fats, oils, vitamins and minerals
- ◆ Supplements available

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the importance of colostrum to the new born foal
- ◆ describe a method of introducing hard feed to a foal
- ◆ describe five suitable feedstuffs suitable for each stage of development including the quantity.
- ◆ describe two types of supplements available and identify when you would feed them

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

The assessment for this Outcome should be by structured questions.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock

### **Outcome 2**

Identify handling techniques for different stages of the horse's development

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Different methods of handling of youngstock
- ◆ Introduction of transporting and methods of travelling young horses
- ◆ Introducing horse clothing
- ◆ Preparation for showing or selling

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ identify different methods of handling youngstock
- ◆ explain the introduction of loading, unloading and methods of travelling young horses
- ◆ demonstrate the application of horse clothing and identify three occasions when this might be necessary
- ◆ demonstrate the turnout of a young horse suitable for showing or selling

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

The assessment for this Outcome should be a practical assignment.

### **Outcome 3**

Describe health and welfare recommendations for the young horse

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Methods and criteria for weaning
- ◆ Factors affecting castration
- ◆ Importance of passports and vaccinations
- ◆ Management of foot balance and dental health
- ◆ Control of parasites
- ◆ Stabling and grazing requirements

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock

### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ identify when it is necessary to wean and give two methods of weaning
- ◆ identify the need for castration, necessary conditions and aftercare
- ◆ identify timescale for passports and necessary vaccinations
- ◆ recognise the stages of development of the horse's teeth up to 3 years old
- ◆ identify the need for dental treatment and regular foot care
- ◆ identify the need for parasite control and describe two methods of control
- ◆ explain stabling requirements, dimensions, safety aspects, two factors to minimise stress.
- ◆ identify five factors in the grazing conditions for the young horse to promote their welfare

### **Assessment Guidelines**

The assessment for this Outcome may be combined with Outcome 1 in the form of structured questions based on given scenarios. It should cover all aspects for the foal up to 1 year old and the choice of either a yearling, 2 year old or 3 year old.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** DP1P 34  
**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock  
**Superclass category:** SH  
**Original date of publication:** August 2004  
**Version:** 01

### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The aims of this Unit are to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to manage the young horse from birth to the end of its 3rd year. It is aimed at those who have had some experience in general horse care and health.

**Outcome 1** looks at the practical aspects of feeding the young horse. It will develop the candidates' knowledge of the nutrients required for the young horse to achieve maximum growth potential and maintain good health. It will develop the candidates' knowledge of feedstuffs and supplements available for the young horse and their place in the diet.

**Outcome 2** develops the skills and knowledge necessary to handle young horses safely while minimising stress. Touching, leading, picking out feet, tying up, grooming. The temperament of the young horse should be assessed and taken into account at all stages. Candidates should learn how to handle the young horse quietly and firmly, disciplining them appropriately when necessary. Different methods of introducing loading and travelling should be evaluated. Use of a companion horse, safe lorry or trailer, well lit and parked in a safe place. Need for horse clothing should be identified and fitted, to include rugs, bandages and boots. Candidates should also be able to turn out young animals for showing or selling this may include washing, trimming, pulling and/or plaiting of the mane or tail and the introduction and fitting of tack as maybe appropriate.

**Outcome 3** will develop the candidates' skills and knowledge needed to recognise the necessity and methods of weaning the young horse while minimising stress to mare and foal, also the initial aftercare of the mare and foal. The candidates will identify when castration is necessary, factors to include maturity, condition and time of year, also the aftercare of the operation. The candidates should have a knowledge of the legal requirements of passports and types available suitable to the breed or activity. They should have knowledge of vaccinations advisable and timing of these.

The management and importance of regular foot and dental care, to include hoof balance, corrective trimming or shoeing if necessary. Knowledge to identify stage of dental development at the different stages from foal to 3 year old and any abnormalities that may occur.

Methods of parasite control to include chemical wormers and paddock management. Knowledge and basic life cycle of different types of worms and identify worming programmes. The candidate must identify the stabling and field requirements necessary for the young horse to include:

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock

### Stabling Requirements

- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Company
- ◆ Individual stabling
- ◆ Group housing
- ◆ Ventilation / lighting requirements
- ◆ Bedding
- ◆ Watering systems
- ◆ Feeding in group housing situation

### Field Requirements

- ◆ Acreage
- ◆ Fencing
- ◆ Watering
- ◆ Shelter
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Quality of sward
- ◆ Terrain
- ◆ Soil type/drainage
- ◆ Company

## Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to acquire the knowledge necessary to give them a clear understanding of all areas in young stock management.

The Unit will be covered partly in the classroom; the practical skills element should be delivered in the stable yard. Candidates would benefit from gaining more practical experience on stud placement handling foals and young stock. The use of video, slides and diagrammatic material could be used to cover all aspects of stud management.

Class discussion would be useful following the return of candidates from their stud placements.

### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving*, *Numeracy* and *Communication* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

## Open learning

This Unit may be suitable for delivery by open or distance learning.

## Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock

This Unit is designed to develop and utilise your knowledge of the care and management of young stock. You should develop the knowledge to select care and management programmes throughout the stages of young stock up to 3 years old. By the end of the Unit you should have learned how to feed, handle and care for the young horse, this will include: weaning, castration, passports/vaccinations, stabling, grazing, transporting, introduction of horse clothing and tack where necessary and preparation for showing/selling.

The Unit is organised into three Outcomes covering the following topics:

- 1 Explain the nutritional and feeding requirements of the young horse.
- 2 Identify handling techniques for different stages of the horse's development.
- 3 Describe health and welfare recommendations for the young horse.

In **Outcome 1** you will learn about the feeding requirements to maximise the growth potential of the young horse and maintain it in good health.

In **Outcome 2** you will learn the different handling techniques for the young horse; this will include leading, grooming, the introduction of transporting, travelling and preparation for showing/selling.

In **Outcome 3** you will learn the health and welfare recommendations for the young horse, this will include, weaning, castration, passports/vaccinations, dental/foot care, stabling, parasite control and grazing requirements.