



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses (SCQF level 4)

CODE F6SW 10

SUMMARY

This Unit is aimed at those who wish to develop their abilities as an assistant worker in the horse industry.

The Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop the skills and knowledge required to assist with working with horses including catching and tying up a horse, presenting a horse for inspection and restraining a horse for treatment.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Catch and tie up a horse.
- 2 Explain the horse's behaviour both in the stable and outside.
- 3 Present a horse for inspection.
- 4 Restrain a horse for treatment or clipping.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

0.5 credit at SCQF level 4 (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*).

**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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: SH

Publication date: May 2009

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2009

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.

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

National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses (SCQF level 4)

CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

There are opportunities for Core Skill development; these are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses (SCQF level 4)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Catch and tie up a horse.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The approach to and catching of the horse is carried out in a quiet and confident manner.
- (b) The fitting and adjustment of the head collar or halter on the horse is appropriate.
- (c) The tying up of the horse is secure and safe.

OUTCOME 2

Explain the horse's behaviour both in the stable and outside.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The explanation of the handling procedures for horses in the stable area is correct.
- (b) The explanation of good manners in the stable and outside is correct.

OUTCOME 3

Present a horse for inspection.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The walking, trotting and turning of the horse in hand is correct.
- (b) The use of the bridle, headcollar or cavesson is in accordance with the supervisor's instructions.
- (c) The wearing of protective clothing is in accordance with the supervisor's instructions.

OUTCOME 4

Restrain a horse for treatment or clipping.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The holding of a horse using a bridle or headcollar is effective and safe.
- (b) The holding of a twitch or front leg is safe.
- (c) The wearing of protective clothing is in accordance with the supervisor's instructions.
- (d) The outline of safe procedures for the use of electrical equipment is correct.
- (e) The awareness of the horse's possible reactions under stress is correct.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses (SCQF level 4)

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

All relevant operational procedures undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current legislation, regulations, codes of practice and manufacturers' recommendations where appropriate.

Written and/or oral evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have met the requirements of all Outcomes and Performance Criteria (PC).

Performance evidence documented by an assessor record/checklist is required for Outcomes 1, 3 and 4. Candidates should be assessed on a minimum of one occasion and the assessment should be carried out on a working yard with suitable horses. The embedding of assessment into normal yard routine would be beneficial although it may be necessary for Outcome 3 to be a simulated exercise owing to welfare and health and safety issues.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence should be collected which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved Outcome 2. The evidence for this Outcome should be obtained under controlled, supervised, closed-book conditions.

Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates.

When using Performance Evidence, assessor observation checklists and other assessment records should be maintained and kept up to date to keep track of candidate progress and to provide evidence for internal and external verification purposes.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses (SCQF level 4)

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 20 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Animal Care at SCQF level 5, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following Lantra, Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standard (NOS) Units:

- (AC1) Assist with the movement and handling of animals
- (AC3) Maintain the cleanliness of the working environment

- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (CU29) Assist with the care of animals
- (CU30) Assist with animal accommodation
- (CU31) Assist with the movement of animals
- (CU32) Maintain health and welfare of animals
- (CU34) Promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of animals

- (CU37) Establish and maintain animals within their accommodation
- (CU115) Control, handle and restrain animals
- (CU45) Control and restrain animals

For Outcome 1–4:

Safety regulations and safe working practices and procedures should be adhered to at all times.

Candidates should approach and handle horses quietly and in a safe confident manner whilst out at grass, in an open yard, in the stable, putting on and fitting a head collar and tying up. They should demonstrate an effective quick release knot tied to an appropriate place.

The importance of good stable manners in the stable and outside is explained along with the explanation of the horse's behaviour and instincts both in the stable and outside.

The horse is presented for inspection and is walked, trotted, and turned in hand as required. Candidates should also be able to hold the horse for examination, treatment and routine tasks ie. grooming, clipping, shoeing, veterinary treatment. Awareness of potentially hazardous situations is shown.

Candidates should demonstrate knowledge of the importance of handling the horse quietly and with confidence and show an awareness of different temperaments of horses and the need to treat each horse and situation individually. Candidates should also be able to identify, and where appropriate, demonstrate the use of aids/techniques which may be used to control a difficult horse.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses (SCQF level 4)

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit is concerned with the handling of the horse and safety factors involved when using equipment. The majority of the teaching instruction and training will take place in a supervised practical situation.

Visits to yards with different handling facilities, ie studs, etc would show the range of equipment available and safety clothing used.

Video presentations to demonstrate various situations which the student may encounter could also be used.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Communications and the *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4) components will be some of the Core Skills used in this Unit.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

For Outcomes 1, 3 and 4 the student should be set a practical exercise to test the application of knowledge and skills required by the Outcome. The candidate will be expected to meet the standards specified in the Performance Criteria.

The assessment should be carried out with the aid of an observation checklist.

Satisfactory achievement of the Outcomes will be based on all the Performance Criteria being met.

Outcome 2 could take the form of a restricted response question paper testing the knowledge gained of the horse's behaviour both in the stable and outside.

The exercise should consist of an equal number of restricted response questions for each Performance Criterion.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Horse Care: Basic Handling of Horses (SCQF level 4)

DISABLED CANDIDATES AND/OR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements