



## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Horse Care: Stable and Grass Routine (SCQF level 5)

**CODE** F6T6 11

### 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 develop the skills and knowledge necessary to assist with the day to day care of horses including their feeding, watering, stable routine and daily inspections.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Describe how to feed and water horses.
- 2 Make beds for horses using suitable materials.
- 3 Carry out daily inspection of field and horses.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following, or equivalent:

- ◆ *Horse Handling* (SCQF level 4)

### CREDIT VALUE

0.5 credit at SCQF level 5 (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5\*).

*\*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.*

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### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** SH

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **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: Stable and Grass Routine (SCQF level 5)**

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**

Describe how to feed and water horses.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) State the reasons for feeding horses.
- (b) Identify feeds and feed treatments commonly used.
- (c) Describe normal feeding requirements for horses, at grass and in a stable.
- (d) State the normal water requirements for horses at grass and in a stable.
- (e) Describe systems of providing water for horses, at grass and in a stable.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Make beds for horses using suitable materials.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe the reasons for bedding horses.
- (b) Identify the advantages and disadvantages of a range of bedding materials.
- (c) Make a bed using a variety of material.
- (d) Remove soiled bedding and remake beds of different materials (muck-out).

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Carry out daily inspection of field and horses.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Carry out field checks and report findings.
- (b) Feed and water horses as necessary.
- (c) Check the horse for signs of health and well being.
- (d) Apply horse clothing appropriate to the conditions.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**UNIT**      Horse Care: Stable and Grass Routine (SCQF level 5)

### **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 recorded oral evidence and performance evidence, supplemented with an assessor observer checklist is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria (PC).

#### **Outcome 1 and Outcome 2**

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is produced under close book conditions on one assessment occasion.

Candidates will identify feeds commonly used for the feeding of horses including both bulk and concentrates.

Candidates will describe the reasons for bedding horses and identify a minimum of two materials suitable for bedding.

#### **Outcome 2 and Outcome 3**

Performance evidence where candidates will be assessed in a practical yard setting and should carry out the practical tasks, in accordance with current industry standards.

Candidates will make up a bed using a variety of materials, remove soiled bedding and remake the bed on a minimum of two occasions.

At grass, candidates will check the field for its suitability, adequate supply of clear fresh water, fences and gates, poisonous plants and any hazards.

Candidates will check the horse for signs of health and well being and ensure it is rugged appropriately for turn out or when returning to the stable.

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 will 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: Stable and Grass Routine (SCQF level 5)

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:

- (AC2) Assist with animal feedstuffs
- (AC3) Maintain the cleanliness of the working environment
- (CU1) Maintain safe and effective working practices
- (CU3) Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security
- (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
- (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
- (CU33) Provide feed and water to animals
- (CU34) Promote and maintain the health and wellbeing of animals
- (CU37) Establish and maintain animals within their accommodation
- (CU42) Load and unload animals for transport
- (CU45) Control and restrain animals

#### Outcome 1

For horses at grass and in the stable the reasons for feeding a horse should be identified along with feeds commonly used for the feeding of horses, both bulk and concentrates. Knowledge should also be gained regarding the treatments which should be applied to certain feeds prior to feeding. Candidates should know the watering requirements of the horse and the systems available for providing the horse with an adequate supply of clear fresh water. The need to restrict water intake in certain cases should also be covered.

#### Outcome 2

Candidates should be aware of the reasons for bedding horses and be able to identify the range of materials available, the uses and limitation or advantages of different materials. In a practical setting they should be able to make up a bed using a variety of materials (eg straw and shavings) as part of this candidates should also be able to remove soiled bedding and remake the bed.

## National Unit Specification: support notes

### UNIT Horse Care: Stable and Grass Routine (SCQF level 5)

#### Outcome 3

Candidates should check the field for grass and its suitability, adequate supply of clear fresh water, fences and gates, poisonous plants and any hazards. This could then be reported to the assessor orally. Feeding and watering of the horse should be carried out as necessary. The horse should be checked for signs of health and well being and be rugged appropriately for turn out or when returning to the stable.

#### GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit is concerned with the feeding and care of the horse whilst out at grass or stabled.

The candidate, under direction, should be expected to carry out the practical tasks of following a feeding programme, inspecting the horse and field whilst at grass, mucking out and replenish the bed whilst in the stable. Delivery could revolve around a series of lectures and practical demonstrations followed by periods of practical instruction/training. The emphasis should be on the practical side carrying out work with horses and could include visits to see different feeding systems and programmes in operation.

#### 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.

Aspects of the Core Skills *Working with Others* (SCQF level 4), *Communication* (SCQF level 4), *Numeracy* (SCQF level 4) and *Problem Solving* (SCQF level 4) could be developed in this Unit.

#### GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Assessment for this Unit could be broken into two areas, practical based performance assessment and a written/oral component. Both these areas can be divided into manageable learning and assessment sessions.

The written/oral components should give the candidate the opportunity to display a wide knowledge of a variety of techniques used when working with horses. Questions regarding the supply of water for example should allow the candidate to describe the variety of options available. The written/oral assessments could be carried out on the yard in an oral format using an assessor checklist (similar to a BHS exam) or could be conducted in a paper based format. A combination of the two is probably beneficial dependent on Performance Criteria.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes**

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The performance related assessment should be done in a practical yard situation with the student being assessed after having learned and practised the operation in question a number of times. The use of a time limit may be beneficial to gauge the candidates competence especially when assessing mucking-out.

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)*.

#### **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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)