



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Horse Health: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** FV73 11

**Superclass:** SH

**Publication date:** September 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### **Summary**

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to gain an understanding of the symptoms and treatment of common injuries and lameness in the horse. Candidates will gain the practical ability to assess the horse's health. This is an introductory Unit, therefore the candidate will require supervision to diagnose and administer correct treatment once completing this Unit. Current health and safety regulations and safe working practices will be adhered to at all times.

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Horse Care (SCQF level 5) but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult learners, school link pupils and for industry continuous professional development (CPD).

### **Outcomes**

- 1 Describe and report signs of health in the horse.
- 2 Describe symptoms and treatment of basic lameness and wounds in the horse.
- 3 Explain measures to prevent ill health in the horse.

### **Recommended entry**

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if the candidate had previous experience of handling horses.

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

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Horse Health: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)

### **Credit points and level**

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 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.*

### **Core Skills**

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

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

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

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Horse Health: An Introduction (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 and report signs of health in the horse.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe signs of good health in the horse.
- (b) Describe signs of ill health in the horse.
- (c) Identify when it may be necessary to call a vet.
- (d) Report on the state of health of a horse.

### **Outcome 2**

Describe symptoms and treatment of basic lameness and wounds in the horse.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify lameness in the horse.
- (b) Identify a variety of common horse wounds.
- (c) Describe the symptoms and treatment of a variety of common horse wounds.
- (d) Describe the symptoms and treatment of simple horse lameness.
- (e) Assist in the treatment of common wounds and simple lameness.

### **Outcome 3**

Explain measures to prevent ill health in the horse.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Explain the different vaccinations available.
- (b) Explain methods of controlling worm burden in horses.
- (c) Describe the stable management procedures for the wellbeing of the horse.

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

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Horse Health: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)

### **Evidence Requirements for this Unit**

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

#### **Outcome 1**

The candidate should provide written/oral and performance evidence which must include:

- ◆ description of a minimum of five signs of good health
- ◆ description of a minimum of five signs of ill health  
(Note — These must not be the opposite of each other)
- ◆ identification of a minimum of four occasions when it would be necessary to call the vet
- ◆ observation of a live horse and correctly commenting on its state of health and reporting their findings
- ◆ describe the correct method of taking temperature, pulse and respiration and state the correct range of normal readings

#### **Outcome 2**

Written/oral evidence and performance evidence must include:

- ◆ identification of fore and hind leg lameness
- ◆ identification of a minimum of two types of common wounds
- ◆ description of the symptoms and treatment for two common wounds
- ◆ description of the symptoms and treatment of one simple lameness
- ◆ correct assistance with cold hosing or tubbing
- ◆ correct assistance with applying a poultice or bandage

#### **Outcome 3**

Written/oral evidence must include:

- ◆ explanation of three available preventative vaccinations
- ◆ description of the horse vaccination schedule or similar
- ◆ explanation of methods of controlling worm burden
- ◆ a description of best practice stable management procedures to ensure the well being of the horse which must include environment, feeding, exercise, bedding, grooming, stabling, warmth, foot care, teeth checks and treatment

## National Unit specification: support notes

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Horse Health: An Introduction (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 40 hours.

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

Safety regulations and safe working practices and procedures should be adhered to at all times to avoid injury to the candidate and the horse.

This Unit is aligned to the following Equine Industry National Occupational Standards from LANTRA:

- ◆ LAN Eq 203 Carry out Routine Care and Monitor the Health and Welfare of Horses
- ◆ LAN Eq 303 Deliver Basic Health Care Treatment to Horses

Recognition of signs of health should be observed on a regular basis with a variety of horses. Emphasis should be placed on the accuracy of reporting signs of good and ill health. Candidates should be observed taking and recording temperature, pulse and respiration rates (TPR) with different horses to highlight the importance of knowing the normal TPR for comparison when ill. The opportunity to practice taking TPR should be given.

In Outcome 1, the identification of signs of good health and ill health must not be the opposite of each other. For example: no discharge from eyes for good health and discharge from eyes for ill health.

Common wounds should be discussed in terms of cause, treatment and prevention where applicable. Where possible real life situations would be recommended but as this will not always be possible simulations or/and recording/pictures should be used. When identifying lameness the use of a lame horse or the use of recordings will enable the candidate to correctly identify the lame leg.

The importance of good management of the horse to reduce the risk of ailments, injury and lameness should be stressed. The need for a planned health and vaccination programme should be emphasised and an outline of how to plan and implement the programme to help the candidate gain an understanding of the value for the horse.

### Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This Unit should be delivered with a mixture of practical and theory teaching methods. The use of DVD may be useful to demonstrate lameness, wounds, ailments and treatment.

Whenever possible the candidate should be given the opportunity to observe, recognise and treat any injury and lameness in a practical situation. Opportunity should be given for discussion and the gathering of facts and information from a variety of sources (dentist, farrier, candidate experience, back man, vet, journals, text books, internet, etc.)

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

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Horse Health: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)

### **Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit**

#### **Outcome 1 PC (a) and (b)**

The candidate will be expected to observe a given horse and accurately comment on its state of health, meeting the standard in the performance criteria. The candidate will observe the taking of temperature, pulse and respiration and comment on the findings. Discussion should take place to determine how to report any concerns. Assessment may be carried out with the use of a check list.

#### **Outcome 2 PC (c)**

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate assisting with the correct method of treating common wounds and simple lameness. They should treat a horse with an appropriate condition or a simulation could take place. The candidate is expected to assist with cold hosing or tubbing the foot or leg and assist with applying a poultice or bandage to a wound correctly for the situation. Assessment may be carried out with the use of a check list.

An assignment or project could be used to assess:

Outcome 1 PC (c)

Outcome 2 PC (c) and (d)

Outcome 3 all PC

### **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)

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### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will develop an understanding of the symptoms and treatment of common injuries and lameness in the horse. They will practice their ability to assess the horse's health then under supervision, diagnose and administer the correct treatment. They will also learn how to prevent ill health in horses through the use of worming and vaccination programmes.

Candidates will:

- ◆ observe horses and report on their health to others
- ◆ discuss the health of horses with experts including vets and farriers
- ◆ diagnose illnesses and common ailments through examination and observation
- ◆ record temperatures and pulse rates and understand variances in these
- ◆ apply this understanding to diagnosis of horses health
- ◆ assist with treating horses illnesses and ailments

In doing this candidates will develop aspects of the Core Skills in *Working with Others*, *Communication*, *Numeracy* and *Problem Solving*.

### 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)

## History of changes to Unit

| Version | Description of change | Date |
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