



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Care of the Horse at Grass (SQCF level 5)

Unit code: FV75 11

Superclass: SH

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Version: 02

Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with the knowledge and practical skills required to safely assist with the feeding and care of horses at grass. This will include identifying that fields are safe and suitable, undertaking the daily care of horses at grass and ensuring the feeding and worming requirements of horses at grass are met. Current health and safety regulations and safe working practices will be adhered to at all times.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult learners, school pupils, those wishing to progress onto HNC Equine Studies and also for industry continuous professional development (CPD).

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

Outcomes

- 1 Identify if a field is safe and suitable for horses.
- 2 Groom and care for a grass kept horse.
- 3 Describe the requirement for supplementary feeding/restricted grazing for the grass kept horse.
- 4 Assist with worming and associated good field management.

Recommended entry

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

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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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

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Identify if a field is safe and suitable for horses.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the checks that should be carried out on a field to ensure that it is safe and suitable for horses.
- (b) Inspect a field for suitability and safety for horses and report findings.
- (c) Explain what is meant by the term 'a horse-sick field'.
- (d) Identify plants that are poisonous to horses.

Outcome 2

Groom and care for a grass kept horse.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the daily health and welfare checks that should be made when caring for horses at grass.
- (b) Safely approach and catch a turned out horse.
- (c) Explain why some horses may be difficult to catch.
- (d) Groom a grass kept horse for exercise demonstrating correct use of appropriate items of the grooming kit.
- (e) Assess the grass kept horse for good health.
- (f) Safely turn a horse out into a field.
- (g) Describe some of the behaviours that a horse may demonstrate once turned out.

Outcome 3

Describe the requirement for supplementary feeding/restricted grazing for the grass kept horse.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe when supplementary feeding and restricted grazing may be necessary and how these can be carried out.
- (b) Identify the problems that may be encountered when feeding a group of horses at grass and suggest how they can be avoided.
- (c) Identify the ways in which water can be provided to grass kept horses and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Assist with worming and associated good field management.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify parasites which may affect horses throughout the year.
- (b) Assist with worming a horse demonstrating due regard for safety.
- (c) Explain the ways in which management of the grazing can assist in the reduction of the worm burden.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Written and or/oral and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Evidence must include:

- ◆ inspection of a field for suitability and safety for horses and reporting findings
- ◆ description of the checks that should be carried out on a field to ensure that it is suitable for horses
- ◆ an explanation of the term 'a horse-sick field'
- ◆ identification of a minimum of four plants that are poisonous to horses

Outcome 2

Evidence must include:

- ◆ description and demonstration of the health and welfare checks that should be made when caring for horses at grass
- ◆ safe approach and catch of a horse from a field
- ◆ safe turn out of horse into field and describe a minimum of four behaviours that a horse may demonstrate
- ◆ explanation of why some horses may be difficult to catch
- ◆ grooming of a grass kept horse

Outcome 3

Evidence must include:

- ◆ description of when supplementary feeding and restricted grazing may be necessary and how these can be carried out
- ◆ description of a minimum of two problems which may be encountered when feeding horses at grass and discuss steps that could be taken to avoid these
- ◆ list three different means of providing water to horses in the field and provide two advantages and two disadvantages for each system

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Evidence must include:

- ◆ list the names of four parasites common to horses kept at grass
- ◆ assisting with the administration of a syringe wormer
- ◆ explanation of three ways in which management of the grazing can assist in the reduction of the worm burden

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Horse Care: Care of the Horse at Grass (SQCF 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

This Unit is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Horse Care (SCQF level 5), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

Candidates will learn how to check that fields are safe and suitable for horses. Checks should include fencing, shelter, water availability, grazing and the amount of space required for each horse living at grass, poisonous plants and other hazards, ie ponds, litter, etc.

Candidates will learn about the daily care of horses at grass including safely approaching, catching and turning out the horse, grooming and assessing general good health and condition. Checks for welfare should include rug fitting and suitability as well as body temperature, flies and the availability of suitable companions. Grooming of a grass kept horse must include the correct selection and use of grooming equipment. The groomed horse must be clean and presentable for exercise. Assessment of the horse for good health must include checking that they are free from injury. Knowledge of the behaviour of horses at grass and associated safety considerations should be included such as awareness of the direction that the horse should be facing when released. Description of behaviours that a horse may demonstrate once turned out must include walking/galloping away/leaping and bucking, rolling, grazing, and interacting with other horses or similar. Explanation of why a horse may be difficult to catch must include the horse associating being caught with working, the possibility that the horse has not been handled regularly and the possibility that the horse may not want to leave the herd.

Candidates will also learn about providing supplementary feeding including roughage and hard feed and/or restricting grazing for horses at grass and what times of year this may be necessary. Emphasis should be given to safety and how problems associated with feeding horses at grass can be avoided. A minimum of two identified problems must include fighting/kicking amongst horses and some horses being denied access to the feed by others. Watering systems available for horses at grass must include buckets, self-filling troughs and natural watering systems. The advantages and disadvantages for each watering system should be identified with the candidate providing a minimum of two advantages and two disadvantages for each system.

An outline of the parasites that affect horses should include small redworm, tapeworm and bots and the times of year when these parasites are considered to be most prevalent. The wormer administered should be in the form of a syringe, with due regard being given to safety. If in-feed wormers are used the candidate should still be able to demonstrate how a horse should be wormed using a syringe. The ways in which management of the grazing can assist in the reduction of the worm burden must cover the removal of droppings and the different methods that can be used, which must include removal of droppings using a wheelbarrow and suitable tools, the spreading out of droppings by chain harrowing and how rotation of grazing and cross grazing can assist in reducing the worm burden.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates would benefit from having knowledge and/or skills in basic handling of horses and caring for a variety of horses at grass throughout the year.

National Occupational Standards (LANTRA):

- ◆ Eq 108 Assist with Catching and Leading Horses
- ◆ Eq 208 Assess Grazing Land for the Introduction of Horses
- ◆ Eq 209 Turn Out and Maintain Horses at Grass

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

For Outcomes 1 and 2 candidates would benefit most from practical group work tasks following instruction related to checking fields and the daily care of horses at grass. Worksheets could be included with the practical checks allowing the candidates to build up a record of their work. Visits to other equestrian establishments may also be beneficial.

For Outcomes 3 and 4 candidates should be assisting with providing supplementary feeding and/or restricting grazing and practical worming of horses. This could be done in small groups allowing the candidate to build up practical experience. Instruction prior to the practical tasks should emphasise the necessity of adopting safe working practices. For the theory associated with Outcome 4, pictures and/or DVDs would be beneficial.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Evidence is required which demonstrates that candidates have achieved Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the standards specified in the Outcome and Performance Criteria. The evidence for all Outcomes should be a combination of practical assessments using checklists with additional oral and/or written questions.

The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

- Outcome 1 Practical exercise using oral and/or written question paper.
- Outcome 2 Practical exercise using oral and/or written question paper.
- Outcome 3 Practical exercise using oral and/or written question paper.
- Outcome 4 Practical exercise using oral and/or written question paper.

Alternatively all Outcomes could be assessed holistically in the form of a practical project with the addition of performance evidence and oral and/or written evidence.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will safely assist with the feeding and care of horses at grass. This will include identifying that fields are safe and suitable, undertaking the daily care of horses at grass and ensuring the feeding and worming requirements of horses at grass are met.

Candidates will:

- ◆ visually assess fields for horses and explain their assessment
- ◆ explain the reason why fields are not suitable and suggest how this can be rectified
- ◆ select appropriate food and watering systems for horses and justify their selections
- ◆ identify signs of parasites in horses and explain this
- ◆ select appropriate methods for dealing with parasites

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication* 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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 embedded.	30/09/2011

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