



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Health (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: FV9Y 12

Superclass: SH

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Summary

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the skills, knowledge and techniques to prevent, recognise and treat common injuries, ailments, disease and lameness in horses. Candidates will develop adequate practical skills to deal with such situations and will gain an understanding of the basic function of the systems of the horse and related ailments.

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).

Outcomes

- 1 Identify and describe basic systems of the horse.
- 2 Describe treatments of basic horse systems.
- 3 Plan an annual health programme for the horse.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre it would be useful if candidates had previous experience of handling horses. It is recommended that the candidate should have successfully achieved Horse Care: Horse Health at SCQF level 5 or equivalent.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 6: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

*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.

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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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 (SCQF level 6)

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 and describe basic systems of the horse.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and describe the basic function of the main muscular features correctly.
- (b) Identify the position of the main organs correctly.
- (c) Identify and describe the basic function of the main skeletal features correctly.
- (d) Identify and describe the basic function of the main respiratory features correctly.
- (e) Identify and describe the basic function of the main circulatory features correctly.
- (f) Correctly identify and describe the basic function of the digestive system.
- (g) Correctly identify the structure of the lower leg.

Outcome 2

Describe treatments of basic horse systems.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify common illness of the muscular system and describe the correct treatment.
- (b) Identify common illness of the skeletal system and describe the correct treatment.
- (c) Identify common illness of the respiratory system and describe the correct treatment.
- (d) Identify common illness of the circulatory system and describe the correct treatment.
- (e) Identify common illness of the digestive system and describe the correct treatment.

Outcome 3

Plan an annual health programme for the horse.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe contagious and infectious diseases, commonly found in horses, and their symptoms.
- (b) Describe preventative methods of controlling contagious and infectious diseases commonly found in horses.
- (c) Plan a practical health programme for horses.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Outcome 1

Written/oral/recorded evidence is required to demonstrate the knowledge of how each system works and how each is arranged.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ the correct labelling of each system
 - muscular, skeletal, respiratory, circulatory and digestive
- ◆ the correct labelling of the main internal organs
 - brain, heart; diaphragm, liver, kidneys, spleen, stomach, lungs
- ◆ the correct labelling of the bones, tendons and ligaments in the lower leg
- ◆ a simple description of how each system works
 - muscular, skeletal, respiratory, circulatory and digestive

Outcome 2

Candidates must produce written/oral /recorded evidence which includes:

- ◆ The symptoms and treatment for two illnesses for each of the following:
 - muscular system
 - skeletal system
 - respiratory system
 - circulatory system
 - digestive system
 - lower leg tendons and ligaments

From the following list:

azoturia, stringhalt, fistulous withers, pelvic injuries, recurrent airway obstruction, strangles, anaemia, haematoma, colic (tympanitic, spasmodic & obstructive), laminitis, thoroughpin, curb, bog spavin, bone spavin, tendon or ligament strain, windgalls, navicular, grass sickness, flu and foot abscess.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

The candidate must produce written/recorded/oral evidence to demonstrate the knowledge to develop an effective health programme for the horse.

The candidate should develop an annual worming and vaccination programme for a yard of six horses, of a variety of ages and breed/type.

Evidence must also include plans for the following — foot care, teeth care and the use of two specialist professionals.

The difference between contagious and infectious diseases must be described and two examples of each given. The candidate must also describe the correct management of contagious and infectious disease.

The candidate must provide an explanation of how to prevent the spread of disease, how to reduce cross contamination on a daily basis and what precautions must be taken when introducing a new horse to the yard.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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 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 306 Promote the Health and Well-being of Horses
- ◆ LAN Eq 401 Develop and Implement a Horse Care Policy

Safe working practices and procedures should be adhered to at all times to avoid injury to the student and the horse. Before attempting this Unit it is recommended that the candidate should have successfully achieved Horse Care: Horse Health at SCQF level 5 or equivalent.

Outcome 1 is a general introduction to the systems of the horse with emphasis on the basic function of each. This could be taught alongside Outcome 2 with discussion encouraged to enforce why each system requires careful management to allow maximum performance/health.

Outcome 2 focuses on identification and treatment of ailments and diseases of the basic systems of the horse. These should be taught alongside the appropriate system.

Outcome 3 is encouraging the candidate to think about prevention rather than cure. Good management skills and vaccinations should be discussed and practiced. Research should be undertaken by the candidate to keep up to date with new methods. Developing annual preventative programmes for a variety of size, age and type of horses should be taught. The isolation procedure should be covered alongside the contagious and infectious diseases.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This Unit focuses on observation, recognition, treatment and prevention. A practical approach should be taken where possible and any chance for firsthand experience should be offered as often as possible. The candidate should use a live horse to designate the parts of the system where appropriate. Before and after exercise the horses TPR should be recorded to give an understanding of the necessity of these systems being in good order to allow the horse to perform at maximum performance. The use of diagrams, recordings, preserved materials and research from a variety of sources will enhance learning.

Whenever possible the opportunity to visit or invite area experts to present a talk or discussion should be given. Simulation of injuries could be used when administering treatment.

National Unit specification: support notes

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

An investigation, assignment or project could be used to cover all Outcomes.

For example the candidate could be set the task of researching their own information on the systems and providing labelled diagrams of each. The illnesses related to each, again can be researched and symptoms and treatment of each given. The introduction or conclusion could include the preventative measure that can be taken to ensure good health and the planning of a health programme.

The candidate should be allowed to use their individuality when collecting and collating the evidence.

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 prevent, recognise and treat common injuries, ailments, disease and lameness in horses. They will learn about the anatomy and physiology of horses and be able to identify and explain what these are and how they work.

Candidates will:

- ◆ describe the basic systems of a horses body and explain how these work
- ◆ assess the health of horses and communicate this to others
- ◆ choose suitable treatments for illnesses and communicate their reasons for this
- ◆ take temperature and pulse rate readings and record these
- ◆ design a health care programme for horse and explain this to others

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication, Problem Solving* and *Numeracy*.

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

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