

## Qualification Unit

This unit forms part of a regulated qualification.

**Unit Title:** The Legal, Professional and Ethical Framework of Equine Health Care

**Unit Reference Number:** Y/651/4939

**Level:** Four (4)

**Credit Value:** 10

**Minimum Guided Learning Hours:** 20

The primary aim of this unit is:

- To investigate the legislation that frames the veterinary profession in the UK and internationally
- To understand the concepts of 'professionalism' and the requirements of professional practice within the field of equine physiotherapy
- To understand the principles of health and safety as they apply to the field of equine physiotherapy

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):	Assessment Criterion (The Learner can):
1. Understand the ethical and legal principles of the application of equine therapy and health care	1.1 Explain legislation requirements relating to the application of equine therapy and health care
	1.2 Explain the requirements of relevant guidelines and codes of practice
	1.3 Evaluate ethical issues surrounding the application of equine therapies
	1.4 Outline the scope of practice of massage, rehabilitation and physiotherapy and any limitations
2. Understand the requirements of professional practice within the field of equine physiotherapy	2.1 Explain the importance of 'professionalism' within the context of equine physiotherapy
	2.2 Describe the roles and scope of training organisations and professional associations in the field of equine physiotherapy
	2.3 Evaluate the benefits and obligations of membership of a professional body or register
3. Understand health, safety and welfare requirements	3.1 Describe responsibilities under applicable health, safety and welfare legislation
	3.2 Undertake a risk assessment relevant to own role

3.3	Outline the importance of dynamic risk assessment during equine physiotherapy
3.4	Apply appropriate control mechanisms from risk assessment

## Mandatory Content

Working as part of a multi-disciplinary team:

- Roles and responsibilities of the professionals, paraprofessionals and lay persons within the equine health management team. This includes the veterinary surgeon, owner, farrier, equine dentist, physiotherapist, nutritionist, saddler. Learners must consider the role of the equine physiotherapist within the context of equestrian sport.
- The importance of a holistic approach to effective equine health management. This must include the importance of working as a team for Veterinary diagnosis, referral, intra-team liaison, rehabilitation planning. Along with governing bodies and organisations important in the regulation and certification of equine health care paraprofessionals. These could include, but are not limited to: Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP), Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy (ACPAT), National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapists (NAVPA) Institute of Registered Veterinary and Animal Physiotherapists (IRVAP), International Association of Animal Therapists (IAAT).
- The importance of communication across the multi-disciplinary team.

<b>LO1</b>	<p><b>AC 1.1</b> must include: National, European and International legal framework surrounding therapies and ethical and legal responsibilities incumbent on practitioners including: veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses, pharmacists, farriers, equine dental technicians, equine physiotherapists, osteopathic or chiropractic practitioners, animal behaviourists, complementary medicine practitioners, animal owners and lay persons. Legal requirements such as the Veterinary Surgeons Act; Exemption Order; GDPR.</p> <p><b>AC 1.2</b> must include: gaining veterinary consent and referral. e.g., RCVS, RAMP, AHPR.</p> <p><b>AC 1.3</b> must include: UK: Animal Welfare Act 2006, Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and Veterinary Surgery (Exemptions) Order 2015. Differences internationally in requirements.</p> <p><b>AC 1.4</b> must include: inadequately trained practitioners, working without veterinary diagnosis and/or consent, inappropriate treatment.</p>
<b>LO2</b>	<p><b>AC 2.1</b> must include: Preparation for Professional Practice: communication skills, client liaison, consultation, record keeping. Identifying extent that the equine physiotherapist has established, maintained and developed ability to work safely and competently. Career-long learning, continuing professional education (CPD) and development to maintain fitness to practise.</p> <p><b>AC 2.2</b> must include: Compliance - Insurance, professional indemnity, public liability, personal accident. Marketing, promotion. RCVS, Registers, Professional Associations.</p>
<b>LO3</b>	<p>Contagious diseases and infection control procedures including ringworm, strangles, equine influenza, adapting/deferring treatment. Consideration of diseases of importance/significance in learner's locality.</p> <p><b>AC 3.1</b> must include: health, safety and welfare legislation. Safe work</p>

practices, hazard control, risk management, reduction or elimination techniques in a safe manner and in accordance with health and safety legislation, including relevant safety policies and procedures.

**AC 3.2** must include: the HSE 'Five steps' and risk control hierarchy. Owner/handler competence, including site, task, individuals, animals etc.

**AC 3.3** must include: the environment – suitable size, lighting, flooring, hazard awareness, awareness of horse's body language.

**AC 3.4** must include: hand washing, cleaning equipment. Use of PPE where identified through risk assessment (e.g., Crash cap, footwear, overalls). Environmental enhancement/distraction – haynet, feed. Correct horse handling equipment – bridle, headcollar.