Changing lives through learning

Qualification Unit

This unit forms part of a regulated qualification.

Unit Title: Equine Health Management

Unit Reference Number: K/651/4943

Level: Four (4)

Credit Value: 20

Minimum Guided Learning Hours: 40

The primary aim of this unit is:

- To develop the learners' understanding of routine husbandry and health management
- To understand the effects of pain on behaviour and physiotherapy treatment plans
- To introduce the principles of saddle fitting for horse health

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):	Assessment Criterion (The Learner can):	
1. Understand husbandry requirements of horses	1.1	Explain the application of the five freedoms to horse management
	1.2	Describe the importance of observation to identify normal and abnormal conditions and behaviour
	1.3	Explain how to promote health and welfare when working with horses
2. Understand the effect of pain on equine behaviour	2.1	Explain the physiology of pain
	2.2	Evaluate the possible risk to handler and therapist when a horse is in pain
	2.3	Explain when treatments should be adapted for the safety of the horse, handler and therapist
3. Understand how saddles and bridles should be properly fitted	3.1	Explain the principles of correct saddle and bridle fitting
	3.2	Analyse methods of fitting and measuring saddles and bridles

	3.3	Evaluate fit of saddles and bridles on the static and dynamic horse
	3.4	Identify horse health problems associated with poor saddle and/ or bridle fit

Mandatory Content	
LO1	The importance of prophylactic measures in the management of horses. **AC1.1** Must include: freedom from hunger, thirst, discomfort, pain, injury, disease, fear and distress. Freedom to express normal behaviour **AC 1.2** Must include: Recognition of normal and abnormal conditions and behaviour. Normal parameters for temperature, pulse and respiration. **AC 1.3** Must include: Internal parasites: life cycles, control. Zoonotic and notifiable diseases, application of biosecurity measures, and prophylactics: vaccinations, worming, dental care
LO2	Importance of correct dental care including: • Equine dental structure and function • Impact of dental problems on equine health and welfare • Relationship between structure, dentition and biting. **AC 2.1** Must include: the physiological processes of pain and how pain can change behaviour. This will underpin future units on modalities used in physiotherapy to manage and reduce pain. **AC 2.2** Must include: indicators of pain, facial expression, behavioural changes, aggression, gait abnormalities. **AC 2.3** Must include: Signs of a horse in pain and understand when treatments may need to be adapted for the safety of the horse, handler and therapist.
LO3	**AC 3.1** Must include: evaluating the horse's back, evaluating the saddle off and on the horse's back. **AC 3.2** Must include: correct placement of saddles, saddle fit on the static and dynamic horse. Methods of fitting and measuring saddles. Measuring devices and saddle fitting templates. **AC 3.3** Must include: evaluating the saddle with and without the mounted rider. Saddle fit solutions, science of saddle pressure and fit. The effect of saddle slippage. Saddle pad materials and functions **AC 3.4** Must include: signs of poor saddle fit. Direct (trauma) and indirect (behavioural, performance, referred pathology) problems caused by poor saddle fit.