

Qualification Unit

This unit forms part of a regulated qualification.

Unit Title: Contemporary Issues in Equine Health and Welfare

Unit Reference Number: H/651/9009

Level: Six (6)

Credit Value: 20

Minimum Guided Learning Hours: 60

The primary aims of this unit are:

- To evaluate the potential impacts of domestication and competition stress factors on equine welfare
- To identify and analyse contemporary issues relevant to domesticated horses
- To analyse current and emerging research, and use this to make recommendations in relation to horse husbandry practices

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):	Assessment Criterion (The Learner can):
1. Understand the influence of domestication on equine welfare	1.1 Apply terminology used within equine welfare
	1.2 Appraise the use of a range of at least three measures of equine welfare
	1.3 Evaluate the effect of domestication on equine welfare
	1.4 Investigate the potential contribution and impact of the horse owner/carer on equine welfare
2. Understand the compatibility of equestrian competition and training with equine welfare	2.1 Analyse the compatibility of demands of common equine competition training practices with the welfare of the horse
	2.2 Analyse the compatibility of demands of equine competition against the welfare of the horse

3. Understand contemporary issues and research relevant to domesticated horses	3.1 Analyse contemporary issues regarding the health and wellbeing of domesticated horses
	3.2 Analyse areas of current and emerging research within the field of equine healthcare
	3.3 Evaluate the contribution of equitation science to horse welfare
4. Understand current and traditional approaches to horse husbandry and management, and make justified recommendations to improve equine welfare	4.1 Analyse contemporary and emerging practices, techniques and developments indicated to contribute towards equine welfare
	4.2 Analyse the potential impact of public perception on the sustainability of equestrianism
	4.3 Critique traditional and current horse-husbandry techniques
	4.4 Construct justified recommendations to improve equine welfare

Mandatory and Indicative Content

LO1	<p>AC 1.1 The learner could define and utilise terminology commonly used to discuss and evaluate equine welfare. Understand the concept of morality and the relationship to ethics and welfare. Increasing recognition of animal sentience in legislation and management practices.</p> <p>AC 1.2 Could include common measures used to quantify equine welfare. The five freedoms: Freedom from hunger, thirst, or malnutrition, from discomfort, from pain, injury, and disease, from fear or distress, the ability to express most normal patterns of behaviour. Development of behavioural and postural markers used to indicate pain and/or discomfort: facial markers and grimace scale, discomfort ethograms and postural markers of back pain. Efficacy and limitations of measures of equine welfare.</p> <p>AC 1.3 Could include a critical appraisal of commonly used horse husbandry practices and management systems on equine welfare. Assessment of the compatibility of named types of equine accommodation with welfare of the horse. Comparison of stable-kept, grass-kept and mixed management systems in relation to equine welfare and practicability. Ability of the horse to fully adapt to domestication.</p> <p>AC 1.4 Could include potential lack of knowledge or ability by owners of appropriate management and/or exercise regimes, and poor recognition of symptoms of pain, discomfort, or distress. Fear and stress. Symptoms of pain and distress. Obesity. Malnutrition. High parasitic burdens. Inappropriate diets or feeding management. Inappropriate exercise regimes. Delayed euthanasia. Neglect and abuse.</p>
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<p>LO2</p>	<p>AC 2.1 Could include stress factors associated with training regimes for named equestrian disciplines; including dressage, eventing, show jumping, polo, racing, and endurance riding. Intensive management, training, and performance regimes across disciplines. Welfare, health and suffering related to specific management regimes and training practices in current use.</p> <p>Could also include intensive management associated with training and performance regimes across disciplines: Welfare, health and suffering related to specific management regimes and training practices in current use.</p> <p>AC 2.2 Could include stress factors associated with competing in named equestrian disciplines; including dressage, eventing, show jumping, polo, racing, and endurance riding. Competition schedules, excessive travel and limited rest, competition stabling, competition environment, demand of competition and risk factors of injury.</p> <p>Could also include adoption of illegitimate practices by a minority to ‘manage’ horses through competition: Drug use, strategies to mask lameness, pain, and discomfort. Potential impacts on equine welfare.</p> <p>Mandatory Content 1 The learner must evaluate the role of governing bodies to safeguard welfare of the competition horse.</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities, scope, and limitations of named equestrian sports’ governing bodies. Initiatives by governing bodies to promote and regulate factors relevant to equine health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Responsibilities of riders and members of the support team to follow guidance and liaise with event officials.</p> <p>Ability of equestrian sports’ governing bodies to take action to safeguard equine welfare, and sanction where necessary.</p>
<p>LO3</p>	<p>AC 3.1 Could include recognition and analysis of current challenges and issues which affect domesticated horses. Issues may be transient or long-term but must be applicable and pertinent at the time of study. Current issues may include, but are not limited the following areas: legislation, codes of conduct, political motivations and influences, recent notable events/developments, cultural beliefs, geographic issues, and challenges.</p> <p>AC 3.2 Could include trends and developments within research relevant to the field of study. Emerging themes within research should be discussed, along with the likely impact of this research on the horse. Where appropriate novel and innovative techniques should be discussed. Learners should be encouraged to conduct their own enquiry but should be supported to consult contemporary literature of key importance to this subject area.</p> <p>AC 3.3 Could include the role of equitation science relevant to welfare of the domesticated horse, including those in competition and training. Techniques and measures used within equitation science to provide objective data for traditionally subjective measurements and practices. Increasing emphasis on an evidence-based approach, including the use of scientifically validated products and techniques particular to the field of equitation science. Recent developments within equitation science.</p> <p>Mandatory Content 2 The learner must include limitations of contemporary</p>

	<p>research.</p> <p>The learner must also include recognition of gaps in contemporary research and the need for further investigation. The extent of implementation of research findings on the equine population, including accessibility of key research to the equine professional and lay-person. Weaknesses and limitations apparent within existing research and potential for misinterpretation of research findings.</p>
LO4	<p>AC 4.1 Could include the concept, aims, and success of contemporary and emerging approaches used to help prevent the incidence of injury or pathology, or to contribute towards equine welfare. Practices selected should be applicable at the time of study and may include, but should not be limited to, prehabilitation, tapering, methods used to reduce the incidence of pathology/injury, and current practices pertinent to the field of equine physiotherapy.</p> <p>AC 4.2 The learner could analyse wider perception of equestrian pursuits, particularly of those with limited equestrian experience or expertise. Appraise a range of viewpoints and discuss how this may inform and influence social licence to operate (SLO). The importance and prevalence of SLO, and how this has influenced common practices. Current and potential future compatibility issues between public perception of sustainability of equestrian pursuits. The importance of the relationship between ethical practices and the sustainability of equestrianism and equestrian sport.</p> <p>AC 4.3 Could include a review of traditional and current horse-husbandry practices and make evidence-based recommendations for improvement likely to contribute towards equine welfare. Identify potential conflicts between routines and demands of commercial yards, and equine welfare.</p> <p>AC 4.4 The learner could construct practicable recommendations which align more closely with equine welfare. Justify arguments for recommendations using findings from contemporary research.</p>