

Introduction to horse care

		Notes for guidance
Health and Safety	<p>I can give examples of appropriate clothing to wear on a yard</p> <p>I know who to report accidents or incidents to at my yard</p> <p>I can list potential hazards I may come across on a yard</p> <p>I can outline a basic hygiene procedure to follow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Appropriate clothing:</i> for general yard work; leading a horse. Includes hat, gloves, suitable boots and clothing suitable to the weather. No flapping or loose clothing; long hair tied back; jewellery kept to a minimum ▫ <i>Accidents or Incidents:</i> we recommend a full yard tour is given as part of the induction to the course. Topics covered to include accident and incident procedure; who to report to, first aiders, location of first aid kit, fire exits and assembly points, not to feed or approach horses without permission/supervision, horses they are not allowed to handle ▫ <i>Potential hazards could include:</i> uneven or slippery ground, horses they are not allowed to handle, where mucking out tools are stored, potential trip hazards, stacked hay bales, shavings pallets ▫ <i>Basic hygiene procedure:</i> don't pat/touch horses that are new or unfamiliar, wash hands after handling horses particularly before eating/drinking, horses have individual grooming kit, headcollars, feed and water buckets
Behaviour and identification	<p>I can describe the behaviour and facial expressions of:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) a relaxed or asleep horse</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) a grumpy or threatened horse</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c) an alert horse</p> <p>I can define the following terms:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Relaxed/asleep horse:</i> two of the following; resting one hind leg, head and neck lowered, eyes may be closed, ears relaxed. They could also be lying down ▫ <i>Grumpy/threatened horse:</i> two of the following; ears back, head and neck stretched out forward, lips curled back showing teeth, ears flat back, head and neck moving side to side, maybe see whites of eyes ▫ <i>Alert horse:</i> two of the following: ears forward or facing direction of noise, not resting a leg (standing square but do not need to know this term at this level) ▫ <i>Mare:</i> a female horse ▫ <i>Gelding:</i> a castrated male horse

	<p>a) mare b) gelding c) horse d) pony</p> <p>I can identify:</p> <p>a) three horse colours b) five points of the horse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Horse</i>: measuring 14.2 hh or above ▫ <i>Pony</i>: measuring under 14.2hh <p>Please note terms such as filly, colt, stallion are covered in Bronze and not required at this level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Colours</i>: three of the following; grey, chestnut, bay, black, piebald. More colours covered in Bronze ▫ <i>Points of horse</i>: five of the following: muzzle, nostril, ears, eye, neck, mane, withers, back, quarters, tail, hock, cannon bone (front and hind), fetlock (front and hind), hoof, chestnut, knee, shoulder, chest, barrel. More points covered in Bronze
<p>Horse health and feeding</p>	<p>I can list the five basic welfare needs</p> <p>I can describe a suitable environment for a stabled horse</p> <p>I can identify two signs of good health</p> <p>I can list:</p> <p>a) two rules of feeding b) two suitable treats for horses</p> <p>I can describe the difference between hay, haylage and straw</p> <p>I can fill a haynet</p> <p>I can check a turnout area for safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Basic welfare needs</i>: Adapted from the five freedoms; Access to shelter, access to food and water, access to company, freedom to express natural behaviour, to be free from pain and suffering ▫ <i>Suitable stabled environment</i>: two of the following; hay, water, bedding, stable big enough for horse to move around in and get up and down comfortably, positioned so they can see other horses (can be linked to five freedoms, above) ▫ <i>Signs of good health</i>: two of the following bright eyes, shiny coat, interested in surroundings, alert, standing evenly on all four legs, eating/drinking normally. More signs of good and ill health covered in Bronze and Silver ▫ <i>Rules of feeding</i>: two of the following; fresh, clean water freely available, main part of diet should be hay, haylage or grass (fibre, but participant doesn't need to list fibre at this level), do not ride horse directly after a bucket feed, keep water and feed buckets clean, horse should eat roughly the same amount each day (weighing feed). Rules of feeding covered in more detail in Bronze ▫ <i>Suitable treats</i>: two of the following or others; specific horse treats, mints, carrots/parsnips (sliced appropriately), apples, bananas, turnips. ▫ <i>Hay</i>: should feel dry to the touch, be golden/green in colour

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Haylage</i>: damp to touch, distinctive smell, stored wrapped in plastic ▫ <i>Straw</i>: used for bedding, bright golden yellow, flatter and wider stems than hay ▫ <i>Fill a haynet</i>: Should be able to select hay or haylage and fill a haynet to level specified. Do not need to weigh haynets at this level ▫ <i>Turnout area checks</i>: two of the following; free from rubbish, fencing safe and in good repair, clean water trough, droppings picked up
<p>Handling and leading</p>	<p>I know what safety precautions to consider before entering a stable</p> <p>I can approach a horse safely</p> <p>I can put on and take off a headcollar</p> <p>I can handle a horse in a stable</p> <p>I can lead and turn a horse in walk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Safety precautions before entering stable</i>: is this a horse they are allowed to handle, aware of horse’s facial expressions, if asleep make sure horse has seen/heard you before approaching, may need to push horse back away from doorway to allow yourself room to enter, enter towards shoulder, close door behind ▫ <i>Approaching a horse</i>: should be able to demonstrate; approach from side, awareness of horse’s blind spots, walk towards horse, talk gently on approach ▫ <i>Put on and take off headcollar</i>: stand next to head and not in front, fastened correctly, lead rope attached, when taking off head collar hung up correctly after. At this level participant doesn’t need to fit headcollar task carried out under supervision so coach can give guidance to tighten/loosen headcollar ▫ <i>Handle a horse in a stable</i>: calm actions and gestures, standing to the side of the horse (not directly in front or behind), not in a position where could get trapped between horse and wall, awareness of horse’s movements so do not get trodden on, holding lead rope short enough so horse doesn’t wander off. Tying up a horse is not part of this Award and is covered in Bronze ▫ <i>Lead and turn a horse in walk</i>: standing at shoulder, standing on the left side of horse, holding lead rope with right hand under horse’s chin, appropriate length of rope, rope not twisted around left hand or loops dragging on floor, walking by horse’s shoulder, talking to horse, turning

		<p>horse so leader is on the outside of the turn. Quiet horse or pony to be used for leading in a small, secure environment (ie not an open field). Participant does not need to lead the horse out from the stable – this is covered in Bronze.</p>
<p>Tack and equipment</p>	<p>I can identify 3 parts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a bridle b) a saddle <p>I can take off a horse’s saddle and carry it safely</p> <p>I can describe the difference between a turnout and a stable rug</p> <p>I can give an example when a stable and turnout rug may be used</p> <p>I can use a body brush, dandy brush and mane and tail comb</p> <p>I can pick up a front foot</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Bridle</i>: three of the following; reins, bit, noseband, headpiece ▫ <i>Saddle</i>: three of the following; girth, girth straps, seat, saddle flap <p>More parts of the bridle and saddle are covered in Bronze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Take off a saddle</i>: undo girth and put this over saddle, stand on left side of horse, left hand at front of saddle, right hand under back of saddle, slide saddle towards you gently. Carry it so the arm is under the gullet, girth not dragging on floor ▫ <i>Turnout rug</i>: waterproof, usually no stitching on outside of body. Used when horse is outside in cold temperatures ▫ <i>Stable rug</i>: not waterproof, quilted appearance, lengthways stitching usually visible over the body. Used when horse is inside in cold temperatures ▫ <i>Brushing a horse</i>: groom in direction of hair, soft body brush on bony areas, dandy brush to be used on fleshy areas, some pressure behind strokes to bring up dust. This is not intended to be a full groom, just a brush off before/after riding for example. ▫ <i>Pick up a front foot</i>: in preparation for picking out feet (covered in Bronze). Positioned in correct place (to side of front leg, facing towards tail), running hand down leg, speaking to horse, supporting hoof with hand, placing down gently.