

Online HorseCollege



Student Workbook

2.H.03 Facilities

www.OnlineHorseCollege.com

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Facilities 2.H.03 Workbook

Students are to complete Handling 2.H.02 assessment prior to attempting Facilities 2.H.03.

Students are to follow all recommended safety considerations

Practical assessments for Horse Care 2.H.03 are as follows

- Types of Facilities
- Paddocks/Pastures/Fields
- Fencing

These assessments incorporate the following unit from the SIS30710 Sport Industry Training Package which include the listed elements

SISOEQO201A Handle horses

- Identify and safely catch, control and lead a horse
- Assist with the transportation of horses

Further information about this assessment is available at www.training.gov.au

Facilities Introduction

Facilities and set up will vary from property to property and industry to industry. For example the facilities for a racing stable will differ from those of a dressage stable. But all establishments will have the same considerations in mind with their facilities in relation to functionality and safety.

The safety considerations include:-

- Ensuring no sharp edges on things like walls, fences, feed bins, gateways.
- Keep horses separated from spectators, pedestrians and traffic (e.g. fences, signs, Separate entrances for horses & people, traffic officers)
- Fences shouldn't be flimsy or have loose wire the horse can get caught up in.
- Gateways need to be wide enough & should swing freely in both directions (i.e. not coming off the hinges)
- Walkways should have secure footing that isn't slippery
- Working/exercise areas/arenas need footing that is secure, non-slip and free from holes
- Free from dangerous objects
- Keep areas well maintained
- Areas used during the night should be well lit
- "No smoking" policies and signs
- Regulations banning smoking & the use of naked flames
- Check fodder for heat and mould
- Appropriate fire extinguishers/hydrants located around facilities
- Fire drills, escape routes and procedures in place, regularly practiced and accessible for staff and public
- Fire breaks around buildings and facilities
- In the case of fire, rugs and blankets should be removed from horses

Incident reports

In the result of defecting equipment, any repairs done to facilities or procedural issues, an incident report needs to be filled out. An incident report records the incident which occurs, the action taken to rectify or repair the incident and what has been done to prevent it from happening again. These reports are a legal requirement for insurance.

Types of Facilities

This table illustrates different types of facilities your may find at an establishment. The types of facilities available will impact how you handle and work with the horses. A good facility will have smaller, enclosed areas (where horses can be easier to catch) and open areas where horses can exhibit natural behaviours (i.e. grazing).



Wash bays

Used for washing horses. This one pictures has non-slip rubber matting, shelving to keep bottles off the ground & cross ties (lead ropes which attach to each side of the halter) to keep horse secure.



Day yards

These are a small paddocks used for putting stabled horses in during the day.



Paddock

Large, fenced off areas of pasture



Round yard

A circular pen/arena of various size. Some are made from temporary fencing allowing the yard to be relocated easily. This one pictured has rubber matting to prevent injury to legs, hips & shoulders.



Stable

A large complex where horses are kept indoors in individual stalls. Stables should be kept clean, dry and maintained to prevent injury and illness, for horse comfort and to maintain a professional standard.



Crush

Used for veterinary procedures to contain and secure the horse

Types of Facilities (cont.)



Sand roll

A small stable/pen filled with deep sand used as an area to let horses have a roll.



Swimming pool

This one pictured is purpose built for swimming horses. Suitable dams can also be used but it is important that they be free from debris/weeds and have firm footing on entry and exit.



Race track/ Training track

Purpose built, oval shaped track used for galloping and racing horses.



Beach

Some beaches permit horses. Some racehorse trainers will use beach riding in training. It is important that they be free from debris/weeds and have firm footing on entry and exit.



Stall/Stable/Loose box

A box/pen which horses are kept in stables.



Dressage arena

A large area either 60mx20m or 40mx20m in measurement. Use for dressage and flatwork. Letters are distributed around the arena for navigation



Jumping arena

A large enclosed area, sometimes under cover, used for jumping

Paddocks/Pastures/Fields

Having a well maintained paddock will help to prevent unnecessary injury to a horse.

Some desirable qualities to look for in a paddock are-

- Well sighted fences (meaning fences that can be easily seen)
- Sunny areas
- Watering points that, if shared by numerous horses, can be access by a few at a time. (e.g. not in the corner of the paddock or yard)
- Shaded areas
- Areas which are protected from wind
- Strong secure fencing with no sharp or rough edges
- Good pasture



Some undesirable qualities-






- Holes (e.g. rabbit holes)
- Rubbish (e.g. old tyres, timber scraps)
- Small gateways (e.g. not big enough for a horse, coming off hinges)
- No sun or wind protection
- Dirty water (e.g. stagnant creek)
- Poor fencing (e.g. loose, flimsy)
- Poisonous plants/weeds
- Rusty wire
- Chemical residue



Fencing

There are many different types of fencing available, all with their own advantages and disadvantages.

See table below.

Example	Advantages	Disadvantages
Post and Rail 	Solid Easy to see	Expensive May deteriorate over time Can attract white ants
Slip rail 	Inexpensive	Difficult to open and close
Plain wire fencing 	Inexpensive Quick to set up	Needs regular straining as the wire stretches to avoid it becoming dangerous. This type of fencing can also be electric, where a low current of electricity is run through the wire to keep horses from leaning on or pushing through fences
Barbed wire fencing 	Inexpensive Quick to set up	Needs regular straining Difficult to handle due to barbs. Not very suited to horses
Barb 		

Fencing (cont.)

1m wide gates



Standard human size
Budget

Not wide enough for horse
without the risk of injury to hips,
shoulders

Wide stable doors



Solid
Wide

Expensive
Time consuming to built & install

Electric fencing



Fencing is easy to set up
Effective in keeping horses off
fences
Set up can be with white tape
or with plain wire

Electricity units can be expensive
Can 'short' out easily
White tape can break easily

Extension Lesson

In each workbook you will find an extension lesson. These extension lessons are for you to utilise to help you understand and put into practice the knowledge covered in the workbook. They do not form part of your assessment (and unlike the quizzes we do not require you to send them in) however we do recommend that they be completed.

Using the facilities you have access to, assess any good or poor safety considerations.

Type of Facility	Good/poor points

Which of the following does your establishment have?

√ / X

Barbed wire

.....

Electric fencing

.....

Plain wire

.....

Post and rail

.....

In the box below draw (birds eye view) what would be considered as a good paddock for horses. Include placement of trees, gates, water troughs.



Recommended Reading

Horse Sense (The Australian guide to horse husbandry)- Peter Huntington and Fran Cleland

References

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